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DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

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SC: Aligarh Muslim varsity entitled to minority status

New bench to take up matter as court overrules 1967 verdict

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

The contentious legal question over Aligarh Muslim University's minority status would be decided by a new bench, Supreme Court held on Friday and overruled the 1967 judgement that said the university cannot be considered a minority institution since it was created by a central law.

In a 4:3 majority verdict, a Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud said a legislation or an executive action that discriminated against religious or linguistic minorities in establishing or administering educational institutions, was ultra vires Article 30(1) of the Constitution. Article 30 deals with the right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions. Article 30 (1) says all minorities, whether based on religion or language, shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.

"The view taken in Azeez Basha (1967 verdict) that an educational institution is not established by a minority if it derives its legal character through a statute, is overruled," held the CJI, who authored the 118-page verdict, also on behalf of Justices Sanjiv Khanna, JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra.

Justice Chandrachud held that religious or linguistic minorities must prove that they established the educational institution for the community to be a minority educational institution for the purposes of Article 30(1). "The right guaranteed by Article 30(1) is applicable to universities established before the commencement of the Constitution," he said.

The AMU Act, 1920, established the university as a teaching and residential Muslim university in Aligarh **PHOTO: PTI**

The question whether AMU was a minority educational institution must be decided based on the principles laid down in the judgment, it underscored.

Judicial records of the case were, therefore, directed to be placed before a regular bench, after receiving instructions from the CJI on the administrative side, for deciding the minority issue and adjudicating appeals against a 2006 verdict of the Allahabad High Court, which struck down a provision of the 1981 law according minority status to AMU.

AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi said, "BJP has opposed minority status for AMU for all these years. What is it going to do now? It has made every effort to attack AMU and Jamia (Millia Islamia), and our right to even run madrasas. BJP must introspect and go for a course correction.... Jamia gets Rs 3 lakh per student, AMU gets Rs 3.9 lakh per student, but BHU gets Rs 6.15 lakh." —*PTI*

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SC TO EXAMINE TAPES OF BIREN INCITING VIOLENCE

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

Supreme Court on Friday agreed to examine audio recordings purportedly linking Manipur Chief Minister Biren Singh to the communal violence between the Meitei and Kuki communities.

Supreme Court a Kuki organisation to produce material to indicate authenticity of the leaked audio clips on the basis of which it filed a plea seeking a court-monitored SIT probe into the alleged role of Biren in the ethnic violence.

A bench of Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra also said it has a duty as constitutional court and does not appreciate any attempt to brush things under the carpet.

It asked advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for Kuki Organization for Human Rights Trust (KOHUR), to place material on record to show credibility of the audio clips. Bhushan claimed the clips had "disturbing conversations" and Biren could be heard instigating the violence and protecting the attackers.

He also alleged Biren not only fuelled the violence there but also allowed arms and ammunition to be looted. —*PTI*

BLIND FAITH OR IGNORANCE?

A man dips a child in the Yamuna River, which is covered with a thick layer of white froth, during Chhath Pooja on Friday. The festival involves devotees bathing in the river. Unfortunately, the froth on the water is a mixture of factory chemicals and sewage, including human faeces. It poses health risks including respiratory issues and skin problems **PHOTO: X**

Putin says India deserves to be a global superpower

MOSCOW, 8 NOV

India deserves to be included in the list of global superpowers as its economy is currently growing faster than in any other country, Russian President Vladimir Putin has said.

Addressing the plenary session of the Valdai Discussion Club in Sochi on Thursday, Putin also said Russia is developing relations with India in all directions and there is a great degree of trust in bilateral ties.

Calling India a great country, Putin said: "We are developing relations with India in all directions. India is a great country, now the largest in terms of population: 1.5 billion people, plus 10 million every year. "

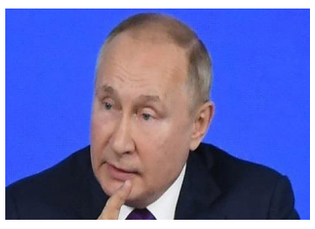

PHOTO: PTI

He said India is leading the world in economic growth.

Putin added that the contacts between India and Russia in the security and defence sphere are developing. Putin named the BrahMos cruise missile project as an example. —*PTI*

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Susie Wiles is 1st ever woman US Chief of Staff

AHMEDABAD, 7 NOV

US President-elect Donald Trump on Thursday named his campaign manager Susan Summerall Wiles as White House Chief of Staff, his first major appointment since winning this week's election. Her appointment was confirmed by US Vice President-elect JD Vance. "This is great news. Susie was a huge asset to President Trump on the campaign and will be a huge asset in the White House. She's also just a really good person. Onward!," Vance posted on X. —*PTI*

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6 men gangrape 15-yr-old girl in Gujarat

PALANPUR, 8 NOV

A 15-year-old girl was gangraped allegedly by six men in Gujarat's Banaskantha district, police said on Friday. The incident took place in Ambaji town on 5 November. A case was booked on 6 November. FIR states the girl was walking to her uncle's house in the evening when a man known to her, Lala Parmar, offered her a lift on his bike. He took her to a secluded place and five others allegedly raped her, leaving her unconscious. No one has been arrested. —*PTI*

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No power in the world can restore Art 370: PM

DHULE, 8 NOV

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday accused Congress-led INDIA bloc of wanting to take the Constitution out of Jammu and Kashmir and asserted that no power in the world can restore Article 370 there.

Addressing his first rally in Maharashtra for the 20 November Assembly elections, Modi said the INDIA grouping is flaunting blank books passing them off as the Constitution to provoke Dalits and Adivasis.

Modi said Congress and its allies should not encourage the "Pakistan agenda" and speak the language of separatists. The agenda won't succeed till he has people's blessings, said Modi.

PM Narendra Modi during a public meeting ahead of Maharashtra polls, in Nashik on Friday **PHOTO: PTI**

"Only Ambedkar's constitution will be followed in Jammu and Kashmir . You must have seen on TV how a resolution was moved in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly on bringing back Article 370 and when BJP MLAs protested, they were thrown out. The country and Maharashtra should understand this," Modi said. —*PTI*

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2 MILITANTS KILLED IN ENCOUNTER IN J&K'S BARAMULLA

SRINAGAR, 8 NOV

Two terrorists were killed on Friday in an overnight encounter with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla. Their identification and affiliation are being ascertained; the Kashmir Zone police posted on X.

Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition were recovered from the slain terrorists following the encounter which started on Thursday night after the security forces launched an intelligence-based operation. —*PTI*

In K'taka, drunk dad kills son crying for food

CHITRADURGA, 8 NOV

A hungry five-year-old boy, Manjunath, was thrashed to death by his father in Rangapura village, Chitradurga taluk on Thursday. The boy, hungry since midday, was crying and pleading with his father for food. Enraged by this, Tippesh thrashed him, leaving the child unconscious. Despite desperate attempts by the boy's mother, Gauri, to intervene, the father continued his attack.

The accused, Tippesh, was reportedly under the influence of alcohol.

The injured child was rushed to a nearby hospital in Chitradurga, but was declared dead upon arrival.

It is alleged that Tippesh had misused the state government's Annabhagya Yojana funds, intended for essential food supplies, to purchase alcohol. This financial strain, coupled with his addiction, had led to increased domestic abuse against his wife and son.

Tippesh fled the scene but was later apprehended by the police. A complaint has been filed against him by his wife, who accuses him of murder. —*Salar News*

Chandrachud gets emotional farewell as CJI's term ends

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

There was no greater feeling than being able to serve those in need and people he never knew or met, Chief Justice DY Chandrachud said on his last working day as the 50th head of the Indian judiciary on Friday.

Heading a four-judge ceremonial bench, also comprising CJI-designate Sanjiv Khanna, Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, which assembled to bid him farewell, the CJI expressed a deep sense of fulfilment, not only for the work accomplished but for the opportunity to serve the country.

Justice Chandrachud stepped into the shoes of his illustrious father YV Chandrachud, who served as the longest CJI between 1978 and 1985, on 9 November, 2022 and will be demitting office on November 10, a Sunday. Born on 11 November, 1959, Justice Chandrachud has had a distinguished career in the judiciary. He was designated as a senior advocate by the Bombay High Court in 1998 and served as solicitor general, before being appointed a judge of the Bombay High Court on 29 March, 2000. He later became the chief justice of the Allahabad High Court on 31 October, 2013. —*PTI*

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"Thirty-eight constitutional bench judgments. This is a record which will remain unbroken. Chief, you truly did it your way
—Sanjiv Khanna, CJI-designate
At the end of the day, it is not about the individual, it is about the cause of justice we uphold here...I am probably the most trolled judge across the system
—DY Chandrachud, CJI

INDIA VOTES AGAINST PAK RESOLUTION ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS CONTROL

UNITED NATIONS, 8 NOV

India voted against a resolution by Pakistan on 'Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels'.

The resolution by Pakistan and Syria on 'Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels' in the First Committee of the UN General Assembly was adopted by recorded vote with 179 members voting in favour, an abstention by Israel while India was the sole country voting against the resolution.

The First Committee of the UNGA deals with disarmament, global challenges and threats to peace that affect the international community.

The resolution recognises the "crucial role of conventional arms control in promoting regional and international peace and security." —*PTI*

POLITICS AFFECTS SPORTS

India says it will not travel to Pak for C'ship Trophy

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

According to reports, Indian cricket team has allegedly refused to travel to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy tournament, expected to be held in early 2025 with India's matches likely to be held at a neutral venue.

It is reliably learnt that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has communicated their decision to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and other stakeholders, and there is a bright possibility of some matches being played in Dubai.

In response to these reports, PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi did not hold back in expressing his disappointment. "In recent years, Pakistan has extended numerous good gestures. However, we hope we are not expected to always do so," Naqvi, who also serves as the Interior Minister, told reporters in Lahore, as quoted by Geo News. The Champions Trophy will feature two groups of four teams each, with participants including Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, New Zealand, South Africa, and defending champions Pakistan.

India and Pakistan have not engaged in a bilateral cricket series since the 2012-13 Pakistan tour of India.

The last Test series took place in December 2007 in India. India's last tour of Pakistan for a bilateral series was in 2006, with their most recent visit to Pakistan being for the Asia Cup in 2008. Last year, Pakistan was set to host the Asia Cup in full, but India played its matches in Sri Lanka under a hybrid model. The latest encounter occurred during this year's ICC T20 World Cup on 9 July. —*PTI*

The last India vs Pakistan match took place during this year's ICC T20 World Cup on 9 July in New York **PHOTO: PTI**

PHOTO: X

3-storey building collapses in Kolar, no casualties

KOLAR, 8 NOV

A three-storey building collapsed near Dandu Road in Bangarapet city of Kolar district on Friday. According to Bangarapet police, "A three storey building belonging to an individual identified as Raj Kumar collapsed during the renovation of the ground floor. Three families in the house were evacuated by the fire brigade personnel." It is said that the building was quite old and the owner of the building had taken ujp renovation and was intended to combine two rooms into one and had removed a load bearing wall between the rooms resulting in the building leaning towards one end. The police said that the house had been abandoned for the past two months. Adding further, the officials said that the building collapse caused damages to the compound of the private school in the area.

—Salar News with ANI

FM Nirmala reviews progress of Mysuru planetarium

MYSURU, 8 NOV

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday reviewed the progress of the planetarium, being built with assistance from her MPLADS fund. The COSMOS high-tech 15-metre LED dome planetarium, with an 8K resolution, will be the first 'Tilted LED dome' Planetarium in the world, the finance ministry said in a post on X. The finance minister has allocated Rs 5 crore of her Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) funds for the Cosmology Education and Research-training Centre project and laid the foundation stone in March 2022, it said. The project, with a budgetary estimate of Rs 91 crore, is executed by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA). In another event, Sitharaman said, Dasa literature held society together during difficult times.

—Salar News with ANI

City police inaugurates eye care project

GAURIBIDANURU, 8 NOV

City Police Commissioner B Dayananda on Friday inaugurated the Bengaluru Police Eye Care Project for the police force and their families. The project, created in partnership with Nethradhama Super Speciality Eye Hospital, Shraddha Eye Care Trust, and Rotary Bangalore Prime, aims to support eye health within the police community. According to a statement from Nethradhama Super Speciality Eye Hospital, the programme offers comprehensive eye screenings to Bengaluru police officers and their families, focusing on early detection and timely treatment.

—PTI

Tejasvi, news sites booked for 'spreading' fake news

They linked a farmer's suicide to land disputes with Waqf Board

BENGALURU, 8 NOV

BJP MP Tejasvi Surya and editors of some Kannada news portals have been booked for allegedly spreading fake news linking a farmer's suicide to land disputes with Waqf Board, police said on Friday.

Sharing the article of the news portals on 'X', Bengaluru South MP on 7 November alleged that a farmer in Haveri district died by suicide after finding his land had been taken over by the Board.

"In their haste to appease minorities, CM@Siddaramaiah @BZZameerAhmed K have unleashed catastrophic effects in Karnataka that are becoming impossible to contain with every passing day," Surya alleged.

The post was deleted by the MP later after Haveri district Superintendent of Police termed the news article as fake.

Tejasvi Surya deleted the post after Haveri SP termed the news article as fake on 7 November PHOTO: X/@TEJASVISURYA

"The news shared is false. No such incident was reported. The farmer mentioned here, Rudrappa Channappa Balikai's suicide was reported on 06/01/2022 and it was reported due to loan and crop loss," the SP said.

Speaking to PTI Videos on Friday, Surya said that a delegation of farmers met the Chairman of the Joint Committee of Parliament on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, Jagdambika Pal, during his visit to Karnataka on 7 November and submitted to him a memorandum.

"I retweeted one of these media outlet reports and said that this is a very serious issue. Farmers are being driven today to commit suicide in Karnataka because of the state-sponsored Waqf encroachment that is taking place and that the state government must at least wake up now," he said.

Surya said after the SP's clarification, he deleted his tweet and said that "perhaps the news organisations on whose report I had relied on perhaps should be more careful about posting news. *—PTI*

AI JOINS POLICE FORCE

In a first, City cops unveil AI avatars for smarter policing

BENGALURU, 8 NOV

With the rapid transformation of technology, adaptation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the law enforcement department is crucial to help investigate a crime.

With such posts, the Bengaluru police aim to reach younger audiences and announce quick updates on traffic and law and order related advisory.

Bengaluru City Police department, has become first in the country to launch a Generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) chatbot featuring avatars modelled on senior officers.

Videos featuring the AI avatars of senior police officers will now be shared on social media with lifelike speech and synchronised lip movements.

PHOTO: X

The police said that for such videos, previously recorded voice samples and messages will be used.

Bengaluru police chief B Dayananda said that this is an experimental move. "If successful, we are planning to go full-fledged with such Chabot's on our official website and mobile app," he said.

There is however a concern on the misuse of these videos due to deepfake technology and rising cases of misinformation. *—Salar News*

WAQF ROW

BJP submits fact-finding report on alleged land grab

Jagdambika Pal during waqf meet in Hubballi, on Thursday PHOTO: PTI

VIJAYAPURA, 8 NOV

BJP fact-finding committee on the alleged Waqf land-grab issue in Vijayapura in Karnataka has submitted their report to Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) Chairman, Jagdambika Pal.

The committee, led by BJP MP Govind M Karjol claims that there were several instances of land records being altered without any prior notice to the people.

The party has alleged that Waqf designations were added to land records for 44 properties in Indi and Chadachan taluks of Vijayapura district without proper notification, following a meeting between Karnataka Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan and district officials.

Jagdambika Pal also visited the area of Vijayapura, on the request of BJP MP Tejasvi Surya, and attended a protest organised by farmers, MLAs and former MPs. Pal addressing the protesters and said he listened to their problems.

"Today in Vijayapura, Karnataka, a joint protest is being organized by farmers and MLAs, former MPs, saints and people from the monastery against the Waqf Board, where I addressed them through a meeting and listened to their problems," read a post by Pal. *—PTI*

Waqf's property should be nationalised and declared as a national property

-Basanagouda R Patil, BJP MLA

Across the State a new kind of 'Jihad' is happening through Waqf

-Pralhad Joshi, Union Minister

JPC chair came for 'political reasons': HM

Karnataka Home Minister G Parmeshwara, criticised the Joint Parliamentary Committee Chairman Jagdambika Pal for visiting the districts where it was alleged that land has been forcefully converted to Waqf property, saying that such a decision should have been taken with the committee and not alone. Parmeshwara said that the JPC Chairman might have come to Vijayapura, Hubballi and other districts for "political reasons." "What I came to know JPC Chairman did not discuss with the committee members. He alone, as a single person has come and visited, which is not liked by the committee members, it should have been a collective decision to come and visit such incidents but that has not happened.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah PHOTO: X

Another Waqf row surfaces in CM's constituency

MYSURU, 8 NOV

Amid allegations of notices served to farmers by Waqf Board alleging encroachment, another row has surfaced. This time it is around a land parcel bearing survey number 257 at Rangasamudra village of T Narasipura taluk, coming under the limits of Varuna Assembly segment represented by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. The land is mentioned as Khabaristan (graveyard) and as Waqf property in Record of Rights, Tenancy and Crops (RTC) issued by Revenue Department January 2022.

State Sugarcane Growers' Association Vice President Attahalli Devaraj said the land has been used as burial grounds by both Hindus and Muslims and tombs have also been constructed in the land parcel. The land was identified as Kasavaiahanathopu (grove) in land records before the khata was issued, residents said.

As Cauvery River is flowing hardly a hundred metres away from this land, drinking water supply is also being supplied from this spot and the villagers are upset with the government.

T Narasipura tahsildar Suresh Achar said the Revenue Department is collecting details of land registrations, documents mentioning Waqf properties, khatas issued to them and notices to farmers at Rangasamudra village as per directions. *—Salar News*

Deve Gowda: Will be in politics till my last breath

MANDYA, 8 NOV

Targeting the ruling Congress in Karnataka, JD(S) patriarch and former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda on Friday said he will not rest until the government is removed, and reiterated that he would remain active in politics till his last breath.

The veteran leader praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his leadership, as he hit out at INDI Alliance leaders, and attacked Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who is also the State Congress chief

"It is in Deve Gowda's instinct, I have said about a thousand times now, until there is last breath in this life, I will fight in politics. I have never said that I will retire from politics," he said.

Speaking to reporters, he said he is not just campaigning and "taking part in the political fight" as his grandson Nikhil Kumaraswamy is in poll from Channapatna. "I will fight (campaign) in the next election too for party candidates...." he said.

"Until this government is removed (I'll fight)...my age is 92. It is not that I will sleep at home after my grandson Nikhil Kumaraswamy wins. No. I have not seen such a government in 62 years of my political life...we need to save this state. I will try for it beyond my limits." *—PTI*

CM will quit soon, claims State BJP Prez Vijayendra

BENGALURU, 8 NOV

Karnataka BJP President BY Vijayendra on Friday claimed that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, facing probe in the MUDA site allotment case, will resign soon.

Both Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and Congress national President M Mallikarjun Kharge are also aware as to when the CM will quit, he said.

He termed Siddaramaiah's reported recent statement that he will continue as CM for the full term, as an attempt aimed at garnering votes from certain communities for 13 November bypolls for three Assembly segments.

"The Chief Minister, who is an accused, is patting himself on his back. He is trying to instill confidence among legislators (Congress) that he will continue as CM, but Siddaramaiah knows what is the truth. DK Shivakumar and Mallikarjun Kharge know when he will resign," Vijayendra said. *—PTI*

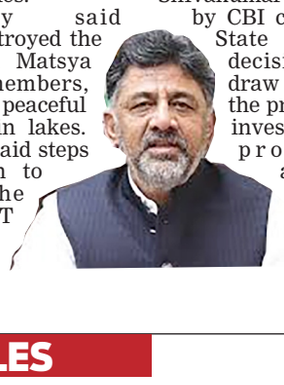
DKS questions Deve Gowda's family over their 'philanthropy'

CHANNAPATNA, 8 NOV

Stating that he has donated 25 acres for schools in Kanakapura, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Friday questioned JD(S) supremo Deve Gowda's family on its generosity and philanthropy. "Has the Deve Gowda family donated even one gunta of land in Hassan, Ramanagara or Channapatna?" Shivakumar said during a campaign rally in Channapatna.

The KPCC President was replying to Gowda's allegation that Shivakumar asked for money to give land to a school. Shivakumar also hit out at Gowda over "nepotism". Shivakumar said the government is ready to give land if Kumaraswamy wants to set up industries.

Kumaraswamy said Shivakumar destroyed the lives of Ganga Matsya community members, who once led a peaceful life by fishing in lakes. Kumaraswamy said steps would be taken to include the community in ST category.



—Salar News

SC SEEKS RESPONSE FROM STATE & DKS ON CBI PLEA IN DA CASE

BENGALURU, 8 NOV

Supreme Court on Friday sought response from the Karnataka government and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on a plea filed by CBI challenging the State government's decision to withdraw its consent to the probe agency for investigating a disproportionate assets (DA) case against him.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan issued notice to Shivakumar and the State government while seeking their replies on the plea.

On 29 August, Karnataka High Court held as "non-maintainable" a petition filed by CBI and a BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal challenging the Congress government's decision to withdraw the consent.

CBI registered the DA case against Shivakumar on 3 October, 2020, based on consent by BJP on 25 September, 2019. *—PTI*

AICC Secretary Mansoor Ali Khan met Grand Mufti of India Kanthapuram AP Abubakar Musliyar and discussed various issues pertaining to the society and the community. He was accompanied by Calicut DCC President Praveen and KPCC General Secretary Jayanth PHOTO: SALAR

CRIME FILES

3 get lifer for rape & murder of minor girl

A local court on Friday sentenced three men to life imprisonment for the rape and murder of an eight-year-old girl here in November, 2021. The district sessions court of Dakshina Kannada passed the order against Jay Singh, Mukesh Singh and Manish Tirki, convicted for the crime. According to the police, the trio taking advantage of the extreme alcohol addiction of the parents of the girl had lured her into a tile factory, raped and murdered her and mutilated the body and threw it into a gutter.

Man held for assaulting woman SI

Nelamangala Town police on Thursday arrested a man after he allegedly assaulted a female sub-inspector (SI) attached to the police station. Around 10pm on Thursday, a woman identified as Sushilamma visited the police station to file a complaint against her son Madhusudan's violent behaviour towards her. SI Jayanthi, who received the complaint, summoned Madhusudan to the police station. Sushilamma alleged that Madhusudan was unemployed and used to waste his time with his friends. She said he would quarrel with her whenever she asked him to find a job. After counselling Madhusudhan, Jayanthi warned him against disrespecting his mother. Enraged at this, Madhusudhan started abusing his mother at the police station.

24-yr-old man killed after truck runs him over

A man died after sustaining severe injuries in an accident involving a truck near Nayandahalli Ring Road in the City. Byatarayanapura Traffic Police said that the incident took place around 3.45pm on Thursday when the deceased, identified as Manjunath, 24, was riding his two-wheeler on the Ring Road. An over-speeding and negligently driven truck allegedly knocked down Manjunath from behind and ran over him. Manjunath was rushed to Jain Hospital where he succumbed to injuries.

10 hurt as bus topples, falls on car in Hanur

As many as 10 people were injured when a private bus toppled and fell on a multi-utility vehicle at Hosadoddi village near Lokkanahalli in Hanur taluk of Chamarajanagar district on Friday. The accident took place when the bus was coming from Odeyarpalya through Hanur - Kollegal route and the car was heading towards Tamil Nadu from Ramapura. The bus overturned and fell on a car when the driver lost control over the wheels.

—Salar News

3 Naxalites killed in Chhattisgarh encounter

BIJAPUR, 8 NOV

Three Naxalites were killed in an encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Friday, police said. The gunfight broke out at around 11 am on the forested hills of Rekhapalli-Komathpalli on the tri-junction of Usoor-Basaguda-Pamed in the district, Inspector General of Police (Bastar Range) Sundarraj P said. Personnel belonging to District Reserve Guard Special Task Force, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and its elite unit CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action) were involved in the operation that was launched based on inputs about the presence of Maoists in the area, the IG said. With this operation, a total of 192 Naxalites have been gunned down by security forces in separate encounters in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region, which comprises seven districts, including Bijapur. —*PTI*

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM

CPI(M)'s Divya granted bail in ADM suicide case

KANNUR/THRISSUR, 8 NOV

A local court in Kannur on Friday granted bail to CPI(M) leader PP Divya in a case of abetment to suicide related to the death of a former ADM, even as the ruling party indicated its support to her, saying the former panchayat president was not an enemy but a party cadre. Thalassery Principal District and Sessions Judge KT Nissar Ahammed granted her relief who is the former president of the Kannur district panchayat. Divya, who was in judicial remand, had moved a petition for regular bail after her anticipatory bail plea was rejected by the court on 29 October. —*PTI*

Akhilesh slams BJP on demonetisation anniversary

LUCKNOW, 8 NOV

Samajwadi Party Chief Akhilesh Yadav on Friday attacked the ruling BJP on the eighth anniversary of demonetisation, alleging the party has destroyed the country's economy through its policies and programmes. Yadav said that an entire chapter will be written on demonetisation in black letters in the history of Indian economy. "Rupee hit a new all-time low against the dollar yesterday, a day before the eighth anniversary of demonetisation. People are asking whether this happened due to the failure of demonetisation or the negative policies of the BJP," he said on X. He wondered if the BJP would give it a spin and say that it's not rupee that has fallen but the dollar which has gained strength. He said the falling rupee has caused resentment among people against the BJP. —*PTI*

TMC minister is sorry for remark against BJP leader

KOLKATA, 8 NOV

Senior TMC minister Firhad Hakim on Friday apologised following backlash over an alleged sexist remark he made against BJP leader Rekha Patra, the face of Sandeshkhali protests, stating that he did not intend to hurt anyone's feelings. The apology comes after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) lodged a formal complaint with the Election Commission, demanding censure against Hakim in the by-poll campaign. During a recent by-poll campaign at the Haroa assembly constituency, Hakim who is also Kolkata Mayor reportedly referred to Patra as "heroo maal," a term considered derogatory towards women. Hakim had allegedly remarked on Patra's defeat in the Lok Sabha elections from Basirhat, from where the BJP fielded her following her role in protests in Sandeshkhali. —*PTI*

Ek hai, toh safe hai: PM to OBCs & dalits

In M'rashtra, Modi says Cong is anti-reservation

DHULE/NASHIK, 8 NOV

Prime Minister Narendra Modi kicked off his campaign on Friday for the crucial Maharashtra assembly polls with unity message of "Ek hai, toh safe hai", building on his party colleague and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's 'batenge to katenge' slogan.

Addressing two poll rallies during the day, the BJP's star campaigner called out the Congress for its "divisive" brand of politics characterised by pitting one caste against another, and maintained since the days of first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, the party has been opposed to reservation.

"The sole agenda of the Congress party is to make one caste fight against another. They do not want SCs, STs and OBCs to progress and get their due recognition... Remember, 'Ek hai toh safe hai' (We are safe if we are united)," the BJP stalwart told the crowd.

Modi accused Congress of being "anti-reservation" since assuming power post-independence.

The BJP's star campaigner also accused the Congress of playing a dangerous game of dividing castes and communities.

If ST, SC and OBCs stay united, the Congress politics will be over, he said. —*PTI*

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis with PM Narendra Modi during a public meeting in Dhule district **PHOTO: PTI**

ASSEMBLY POLLS '24 M'RASHTRA, J'KHAND

BJP after tribals' jal, jungle, jameen: RaGa

He says BJP's mission is to destroy Constitution

SIMDEGA, 8 NOV

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday accused the BJP of trying to snatch 'Jal, Jungle, Jameen' (water, forest, land) from tribal people. He alleged that the RSS-BJP's mission was to "destroy" the Constitution of the country, while the INDIA bloc "wanted to protect" it.

"PM calls you 'vanvasi' as the BJP believes that land, forest and water belong to the saffron party, RSS and capitalists. The BJP believes in grabbing tribal land under its newly coined word development. It wants to snatch 'Jal, Jungle, Jameen' (water, forest, land) from tribals," Gandhi alleged while addressing a rally in Jharkhand's Simdega.

He also claimed that the Constitution was under "constant attack" and the INDIA bloc was making "all efforts to protect it". "The Constitution is under constant attack and it needs to be protected. We will remove the cap of 50 per cent reservation at any cost. If we are voted to power in Jharkhand, we will raise reservation of STs to 28 per cent from the present 26 per cent, SCs to 12 per cent from the current 10 per cent and OBCs to 27 per cent from the existing 14 per cent," he claimed. —*PTI*

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi dances at a rally ahead of Jharkhand elections in Lohardarga on Friday **PHOTO: PTI**

AJSU PARTY RELEASES MANIFESTO

RANCHI, 8 NOV

BJP ally AJSU Party on Friday released its manifesto for the upcoming Jharkhand assembly polls, promising financial assistance of Rs 1.21 lakh annually to every poor family in the state. AJSU Party chief Sudesh Mahto announced that if its party is voted to power, women would get 33 per cent reservation in government jobs and a commission for their safety. He also promised setting up hostels for working women and said every citizen would get health insurance coverage of Rs 25 lakh. He also promised setting up hostels for working women. —*PTI*

"Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) will be wiped out in Maharashtra in the assembly elections the same way the Congress faced a defeat in Haryana

-Amit Shah, Union Home Minister

"Congress has a long-standing policy of dividing communities to secure votes, which has only harmed the unity and progress of our nation.

-Kiren Rijuju, Union Minister

"Our neighbouring country Pakistan is known for loot, lies, fraud and insult of Hindus. The JMM-led coalition has converted the Jharkhand capital into Karachi

-Mohan Yadav, MP CM

FREEBIES WORTH ₹13.26CR SEIZED

THANE, 8 NOV

Between 15 October, when the model code of conduct for Maharashtra elections came into force, and 5 November, authorities in Thane district have seized liquor, drugs and freebies worth Rs 13.26 crore. A total of 209 FIRs have been registered in connection with the seizures, Thane Collector Ashok Shingare said. Shingare shared a presentation on key numbers associated with the upcoming polls in the Thane district, which has 72,29,339 voters spread across 18 assembly segments. Of them, 22,82,882 are women and 1,415 are from the third gender category. —*PTI*

Spl status row: BJP holds mock Assembly

SRINAGAR, 8 NOV

Opposition BJP on Friday held a mock session in the lawns of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly after half of its members were marshalled out while the other half staged a walk out of the House to protest against the special status resolution.

The BJP MLAs assembled in the assembly lawns and staged a mock assembly in which they described the House resolution on restoration of special status as "illegal" and "unconstitutional".

BJP leaders said the mock assembly was to protest against the National Conference which has "hijacked the House".

"The House is hijacked by the NC. We won't allow this to happen. A Constitutional crisis has been brought about by the NC. They have violated the rules," BJP MLA

Balwant Singh Mankotia said.

Earlier in the days, 12 BJP MLAs were marshalled out of the House after they protested against the resolution while 11 party MLAs later walked out of the House. BJP MLAs raised slogans and clashed with fellow members, including Engineer Rashid's brother and Awami Ittehad Party MLA Sheikh Khursheed over a banner he was carrying.

BJP MLAs were seen entering the well of the House along with Khurshid Ahmad Sheikh were been marshalled out of the House on the orders of Assembly Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather. Reacting to the ruckus, J&K LoP Sunil Sharma termed it as the "darkest day in the democracy." He accused Assembly Speaker of behaving as the "Speaker of National Conference," instead of the House.He alleged that the Speaker wanted to "suppress" the voice of the opposition. —*Agencies*

AGAINST J&K ATTACKS

Agitators burn effigy of NC leaders and set a tyre on fire during a district-wide bandh against the killing of two Village Defence Guards by terrorists in Kishtwar district, Jammu & Kashmir on Friday **PHOTO: PTI**

Protests in Jammu over VDG killings

SRINAGAR, 8 NOV

There were sporadic protests in the Jammu region on Friday over the killings of two Village Defence Guards by terrorists the previous day, while a complete shutdown was observed in Kishtwar with demonstrations against Pakistan.

Security has been beefed up in Kishtwar— from where the two Village Defence Guards were abducted and killed— as people came out in large numbers to give vent to their anger and demanded "immediate elimination" of the terrorists. All shops and businesses were closed and traffic was off the road in the district, while there was thin attendance in schools and other educational institutions.

Terrorists killed two VDGs after abducting them in the higher reaches of the Kishtwar. Jaish-e-Mohammad offshoot Kashmir Tigers has claimed responsibility for it. A massive joint search operation is underway by police and the Army.

In the wake of the killing of two village defence guards in Kishtwar of Jammu and Kashmir, Sanatan Dharm Sabha on Friday called for a shutdown in the district. Protests were reported from Kuntwara, Thakurie, and Paddar with slogans of "Pakistan Murdabad" being raised and a sit-in on the roads. Hundreds gathered in the Drabshalla area of the district, chanting 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai', and burning tyres and blocking roads.

In Kishtwar, a women-led protest march was organised by the Sanatan Dharam Sabha. They sat on a dharna at the main chowk, burning tyres and the Pakistani flag. —*PTI*

Priyanka has Jamaat support: Vijayan

T'PURAM, 8 NOV

Kerala Chief Minister and veteran Marxist leader Pinarayi Vijayan on Friday intensified his attack on the Congress, alleging that its General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is contesting the Wayanad Lok Sabha by-election with the backing of Jamaat-e-Islami.

In a Facebook post on Thursday, Vijayan claimed that by-election in Wayanad has "exposed the Congress party's secular mask completely".

Pinarayi Vijayan **PHOTO: PTI**

"Priyanka Gandhi is running as a candidate there with the backing of Jamaat-e-Islami. So, what exactly is Congress's stance? Our country is not unfamiliar with Jamaat-e-Islami. Does that organisation's ideology align with democratic values?" he asked. Stating that Jamaat-e-Islami does not value the nation or its democracy and disregards the nation's governance structure, Vijayan said the organisation was operating under the guise of political involvement through the Welfare Party. He alleged that Jamaat-e-Islami had long opposed elections in Jammu and Kashmir, promoting strong sectarian positions. "Later, they aligned themselves with the BJP (in Kashmir)," he said. —*PTI*

INDIA, ASEAN TIES KEY IN TACKLING ISSUES: EAM

SINGAPORE, 8 NOV

India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are major demographies and their collaboration can be crucial in tackling contemporary issues, ensuring food and health security and addressing political challenges in the shared region like Myanmar, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Friday.

Jaishankar's remarks came as he addressed the Eighth Roundtable of ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks – Navigating a World in Transition: Agenda for ASEAN-India Cooperation.

Jaishankar **PHOTO: PTI**

"India and the ASEAN are major demographies whose emerging demands can not only support each other but become larger productive forces in the international economy," said Jaishankar.

Together, the ASEAN and India account for more than a quarter of the world's population, he said.

"Our consumer demands and lifestyle choices are themselves major economic drivers. They will also shape the scale of services and connectivity as we promote trade, tourism, mobility and education. The magnitude of our endeavours has a resonance that is far beyond the immediate domain," he said. —*PTI*

SOME CONTROVERSY TOO

Chandrachud: Legacy of landmark verdicts that shaped society

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

India's 50th Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, known also for his many pithy statements, leaves an imprint of his own on the annals of legal history.

Chandrachud, who demits office on Sunday, penned more than 500 judgments, some panned and many praised.

Chandrachud, who was elevated to the top court on 13 May, 2016, was born on 11 November, 1959. He was a judge of the Bombay High Court from 29 March, 2000 until his appointment as the chief justice of the Allahabad High Court from 31 October, 2013.

He has judgments such as the Ayodhya land dispute, the abrogation of Article 370 and the decriminalisation of consensual gay sex that shaped society and politics to his name. The Chandrachud legacy has a physical manifestation too - a reimagined 'Lady Justice'. The earlier 'Goddess of Justice' in Grecian robes with blindfold and sword has been replaced by a 6ft tall sculpture with scales in one hand and the Constitution in another.

She is in a sari, with a crown and sans blindfold.

He got an LLM degree and a doctorate from the Harvard Law School and became chief justice on 9 November, 2022.

He was part of a landmark judgment by a five-judge constitution bench that recognised the 'living will' made by terminally-ill patients for passive euthanasia.

He was author of the unanimous 2019 verdict in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute which settled the fractious issue going back more than a century and paved the way for construction of the temple. Ranjan Gogoi was chief justice at the time and heading the five-judge bench.

In his last days in office, CJI stirred another controversy when he said in a public function that he prayed to the "deity" for a solution to the polarising dispute.

DY Chandrachud **PHOTO: PTI**

Chandrachud was the author of the lead judgment that unanimously upheld the 2019 revocation of Article 370 that gave special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Besides, he was on the bench that delivered path-breaking judgments on decriminalising same-sex relations.

He was also part of a nine-judge bench and key author of the unanimous verdict that declared the right to privacy a fundamental right under Article 21 (life and personal liberty).

He expanded the scope of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act and the corresponding rules to include unmarried women, even transgender, for abortion between 20-24 weeks of pregnancy. Chandrachud also ruled on ticklish issues, declaring that criminalising adultery was arbitrary and archaic, and recognising the living will made by terminally ill patients.

In May 2023, the bench led by him held that the Delhi government would have control over all services in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

Consequential matters relating to the Maharashtra political crisis and the fight over rival factions for control of parties like Shiv Sena and the NCP are also still pending. He was the first person to term the second wave of the Covid pandemic in 2021 a "national crisis". —*PTI*

SC/ST SUB SECTIONS

In a landmark judgment in 2024, the court allowed states to make sub-divisions under SC/ST to address "backwardness within backwardness," subject to empirical evidence.

EB CASE

In February a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Chandrachud struck down the Electoral Bonds scheme for political funding which had been in place since 2018.. The scheme was unconstitutional and arbitrary, he said.

PHOTO: X

'Splistvilla 5' fame Nitin dies by suicide at 35

MUMBAI, 8 NOV

TV actor Nitin Chauhan,35, known for participating in the reality show 'Splitsvilla 5' died by suicide at his house in Mumbai. TV actor Sudeep Sahir also shared a picture of Nitin on his Instagram Stories and wrote, "Rest in peace, buddy." Vibhuti and Sudeep shared screen space with Nitin in the TV show 'Tera Yaar Hoon Main'. Nitin was known for starring in TV shows like 'Zindagi Dot Com', 'Friends: Conditions apply', 'Crime Patrol', 'Gumrah: End of Innocence', 'Savdhaan India', and others. He gained popularity with the reality show 'Dadagiri Season 2'. He was the winner of the show. He had been suffering from depression for the last couple of years, as he was unable to find work in television and films.—*ANI*

Weapons from 1857 rebellion found in UP field

SHAHJAHANPUR, 8 NOV

A host of weapons, possibly used during the rebellion of 1857, was found by a farmer while working in his field in the district, an official said on Friday. District Magistrate Dharmendra Pratap Singh said Baburam was ploughing his field a few days ago when he stumbled upon an item resembling an iron sword. As he continued digging, the farmer uncovered a large number of weapons buried in the ground. In total, he found 23 swords, the remains of 12 rifles, a spear and a dagger, Singh told PTI. The barrels and iron parts of the rifles were all that remained with its wooden components likely consumed by termites, he said. Khurana said the weapons might have been used by revolutionaries during the 1857 uprising and they might have moved through this region to the forests of Pilibhit after fighting the the British Army. —*PTI*

Woman found hanging from pole near Amethi rly stn

AMETHI, 8 NOV

The body of an unidentified woman was found hanging from an electric pole near the Musafirkhana railway station in Uttar Pradesh's Amethi on Friday, police said. The woman appeared to have used her sari as a noose, suggesting it could be a case of suicide, a police official said, adding a pair of slippers was also found near the site. "The woman's body was found hanging near the Musafirkhana railway station. We have sent it for post-mortem and are taking steps for identification through social media and other sources," Station House Officer Vivek Singh said. "We notified the railway police, but after waiting for a considerable time without any response, the Musafirkhana police proceeded with the post-mortem," he said. —*PTI*

MP to use satellite collars to track elephants

BHOPAL, 8 NOV

In light of the recent deaths of 10 elephants in Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve (BTR), the Madhya Pradesh forest department plans to use satellite collars to track the movements of tuskers, an official said on Friday. The state government has been announcing a slew of measures following the deaths of pachyderms last month. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav earlier announced that forest officials from Madhya Pradesh would be sent for training in other states with a high population of elephants. On 29 October, four wild elephants were found dead in Sankhani and Bakeli under the Khalil range of the BTR in Umaria district, while four died on 30 October and two on 31 October. —*PTI*

Win for minority rights: AMU fraternity on SC ruling

BJP says govt will firmly put forth its stand before SC

ALIGARH (UP), 8 NOV

The Aligarh Muslim University fraternity on Friday welcomed the Supreme Court's ruling on the institute's minority status, saying it reaffirms the foundation principles on which the institution was established.

Professor Faizan Mustafa, a constitutional law expert and former registrar of AMU, who had filed this case in the Supreme Court in his ex-officio position, told PTI, "It is a comprehensive win for minority rights in general and AMU in particular."

Dr Rahat Abrar, former director of AMU's Urdu Academy and historian, who played a prominent role in providing vital historical documents to legal experts in the case, said the judgement has validated the claims of the AMU communit, which had always maintained that the case should be decided based on historical evidence on the identity of those organisations and individuals who had envisaged the idea behind this institution and worked for its establishment.

Secretary of the AMU Teachers Association (AMUTA) Mohammad Obaid Siddiqui said the judgement "reaffirms the foundation principles on which this institution was established."

This came after the Apex Court deferred the question of Aligarh Muslim University's minority status to a new bench PHOTO: PTI

The judgement reaffirms the idea behind the establishment of the institution for fulfilling educational aspirations, while also maintaining its commitment to an inclusive environment serving all sections of society, Siddiqui said.

Meanwhile, BJP said that the Centre will "firmly" put forth its stand on the question of Aligarh Muslim University's minority status when a new bench of the Supreme Court takes up the matter for hearing. The BJP is a party that believes in the Constitution, he stressed. Reacting to the Supreme Court's decision, BJP IT department head Amit Malviya posted on X remarks of some of the political "stalwarts" who had opposed the granting of a minority tag to the Aligarh Muslim University during debates in Parliament in 1972. —*PTI*

SC seeks reply on including yoga in Ayushman Bharat

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

Supreme Court sought the Centre's response on a plea seeking inclusion of ayurveda, yoga, and naturopathy in the national Ayushman Bharat scheme.

A bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra issued the notice to the Centre and others on the petition filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay.

The plea, which sought inclusion of the practices in PM-JAY, also known as Ayushman Bharat, said the inclusion would allow a significant portion of the country's population to avail affordable healthcare benefits and wellness in various serious diseases, apart from providing employment to many working in the field of Ayurveda. —*PTI*

BREATHLESSNESS, IRRITATION

Delhi Minister Gopal Rai at the trial run of drone-based mist spraying to combat air pollution in New Delhi on Friday PHOTO: PTI

Delhites suffer as air turns severe

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

With the air pollution reaching an alarming level in Delhi's Anand Vihar, people living in the area are facing health issues as there has been a surge in cases of respiratory and throat infections and eye irritation in the last few days.

Zaved Ali, an autorickshaw driver at the Anand Nagar bus stand, shared his struggles with the worsening air quality. "My eyes are constantly irritated and often turn red, leading to blurred vision. It makes it really difficult to drive safely," Ali said.

He added that though he carries a mask, wearing it for extended periods is uncomfortable and affects his ability to breathe properly.

Delhi's Anand Vihar area is one of the most polluted areas. The air quality index (AQI) here is consistently in the 'severe' category. On Friday, the overall AQI of the national capital was 389 at 8.30 am, while Anand Vihar's AQI stood at 419, making it the hub of worst air pollution.

The impact on residents is not just limited to irritation in eyes.

Sunita, a local homemaker, has been battling a persistent cough and eye irritation for several days. Despite visiting doctors multiple times, she says nothing seems to provide a lasting relief. —*PTI*

SC BINS PLEA SEEKING YOGA INSTRUCTORS IN SCHOOLS

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

Supreme Court on Friday refused to examine a plea seeking directions to all states to appoint "yoga mitra" instructors for school children. A bench of Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra told petitioner advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay that it was a policy matter. The plea contended that integrating yoga in education not only upheld the children's right to health under Article 21, but also complemented their right to education under Article 21A.

SC DISMISSES PIL SEEKING CBI PROBE INTO TIRUPATI LADDUS

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

Supreme Court on Friday junked a PIL seeking a CBI probe into alleged use of animal fat in making Tirupati laddus under the previous YS Jagan Mohan Reddy-led regime. A bench comprising Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan dismissed the plea filed by one KA Paul, a social activist and president of organisation 'Global Peace Initiative'. "Going by your prayer, we will have to create separate states for all temples, gurudwaras etc. We can't direct that a separate state be created for a particular religion. Dismissed," the bench said.

Insurance firm asked to pay customer for rejecting claim

KOCHI, 8 NOV

A district consumer disputes redressal commission in Kerala has directed a Star Health and Allied Insurance Company private insurance company to pay Rs 3,67,849 to a customer after it denied his insurance claim, alleging that he had concealed a pre-existing health condition, commission authorities said. The ruling by the Ernakulam District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission comes in response to a complaint filed by KP Rendeep, a resident of Aluva in Ernakulam district, who underwent aortic valve replacement surgery at a private hospital. —*PTI*

Odisha teen raped by boyfriend, others; 6 held

BHUBANESWAR, 8 NOV

Six people, including a minor, were arrested for allegedly raping a 19-year-old college student several times and videographing the act in Odisha's Cuttack, police said on Friday.

The woman lodged a complaint with the Badambadi police station in Cuttack, alleging that the accused people, including her boyfriend, raped her.

The college student claimed that she had gone to a cafe within Purighat Police Station limits in Cuttack during the Dasara festival to celebrate her birthday, and her boyfriend, allegedly with help of the cafe owner, captured in his phone some of their intimate moments there.

They blackmailed the woman by showing her those intimate videos and raped her several times, police told reporters.

Based on the complaint lodged on 4 November, the boyfriend of the woman, the cafe owner, a boy and three others were arrested during the next two days, he said.

The police also recovered the videos from their mobile phones which were sent to the State Forensic Science Laboratory in Bhubaneswar for examination. —*PTI*

No end to death threats for Salman

MUMBAI, 8 NOV

Another threat has been issued to Bollywood actor Salman Khan, with the sender demanding Rs 5 crore on "behalf of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang", officials said on Friday.

PHOTO: PTI

The threat message was sent to Mumbai traffic police's WhatsApp helpline on Thursday night, an official said.

The sender of the message threatened the actor and demanded Rs 5 crore, claiming it was being made on behalf of the Bishnoi gang. Besides, the individual also threatened the lyricist of the song 'Main Sikandar Hoon', the official said.

In the past few weeks, the traffic police helpline has received many threat messages for Khan. Khan had earlier received death threats from the Lawrence Bishnoi gang. Suspected members of his gang opened fire outside the actor's Bandra home in April. —*PTI*

TN HOOCH TRAGEDY SUSPECT HELD AFTER 23 YEARS

CUDDALORE, 8 NOV

An elusive man, suspected to have supplied methanol to bootleggers leading to a hooch tragedy in Panruti in the district claiming 53 lives, 23 years ago, was arrested from Tirupur, police said on Friday.

The man, now aged 58, managed to evade the police dragnet for over two decades after settling down in Tirupur and setting up a grocery store, police said.

Though his whereabouts had remained unknown for many years, the district police traced him to Tirupur and arrested him on Thursday after tracking the mobile phone calls of his relatives, the official said. He was said to have supplied methanol to the bootleggers in Panruti, leading to the hooch tragedy in November 2001. Many who consumed the spurious liquor lost their vision. Following the incident, the police arrested 21 people and of them 12 died during the trial, which is going on. —*PTI*

6 houses torched; villagers attacked in Jiribam again

IMPHAL, 8 NOV

At least six houses were torched and residents of a tribal village were attacked by a group of armed militants in ethnic strife-torn Manipur's Jiribam district, police said on Friday.

The incident occurred on Thursday evening in Zairon Hmar village after the group of militants set the houses on fire, a senior officer said. "Preliminary reports suggested that several villagers managed to flee during the attack and took shelter in nearby forest. At least six houses were severely damaged due to the arson. An investigation is underway," he said. Manipur has been rocked by ethnic violence since May last year and over 200 people were killed. —*PTI*

'Untreated waste dumped in Kedarnath'

DEHRADUN, 8 NOV

Tonnes of untreated waste continues to be dumped at the landfill sites around the famous Himalayan temple of Kedarnath, causing concern among those who care for the environment as the area is eco-sensitive.

A total of 49.18 tonnes of unprocessed garbage generated in Kedarnath was dumped at the two landfill sites near the temple between 2022 and 2024, an RTI query filed by a Noida-based environmentalist has revealed.

The non-processed garbage generated in the area also showed a rising trend during the period, with 13.2 tonnes of untreated waste generated in 2022, 18.48 tonnes in 2023 and 17.5 tonnes so far this year, according to the Uttarakhand government's response to the query filed under the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

Over 49.18 tonnes of unprocessed garbage generated in Kedarnath was dumped at the two landfill sites near the temple PHOTO: PTI

The RTI query was filed by Amit Gupta. "The temple is situated at a height of 12,000 feet, where there are also glaciers. The eco-sensitivity of the area is beyond doubt. The two landfill sites near the temple are reaching their saturation point," he said. —*PTI*

Student, not allowed to take selfie, kills self

KHARGONE, 8 NOV

A Class 12 student jumped to death from Jam Gate, a historical site in Madhya Pradesh's Khargone, after the authorities of his school objected to his use of a mobile phone and attempts to click selfies on its premises, police said.

The 17-year-old tribal student, Raj Osari, studied in a government higher secondary school at Gulwad in Mandleshwar area and stayed in a government-run hostel. —*PTI*

Wayanad landslide: Kerala probes worms in food kits

T'PURA, 8 NOV

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Friday ordered a vigilance inquiry into the reports of distribution of worm-infested food kits by Meppadi Grama Panchayat to the survivors of the landslides in Chooralmala-Mundakai in Wayanad district.

He ordered an inquiry based on the media reports on the food kits, a release issued by the CMO said. Vijayan said that a report should be submitted immediately.

The investigation will examine whether the Panchayat distributed old stock or if the food grains were tampered with in any way. A preliminary investigation has already been conducted, it said.

Survivors of the landslides in Chooralmala-Mundakai in Wayanad district alleged that they were given worm-infested food kits by the Meppadi Grama Panchayat, leading to a protest by the Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI) on Thursday.

The Meppadi Panchayat is governed by the Congress-led UDF. —*PTI*

TO AVOID 'BAD TOUCH'

Men shouldn't cut women's hair, tailor clothes: UP body

LUCKNOW, 8 NOV

Men should not take women's measurements at tailor shops, they should not cut a woman's hair or train her in the gym either— these are some of the proposals from the Uttar Pradesh State Women Commission to protect women from "bad touch" and stymie the ill intentions of men.

The radical raft of suggestions, which includes installing CCTVs in gyms, cloth stores and coaching centres, and having a woman for security in school buses, followed a meeting held on 28 October.

The commission said it has sent letters on the guidelines, which seem to be an attempt to segregate men and women in public spaces to improve women's safety, to all district magistrates in the state.

"There have been increasing complaints of 'bad touch' by male trainers in gyms and in women's boutiques where tailors who take measurements are mostly male," Babita Chauhan, Chairperson of the Uttar Pradesh women's body, told PTI.

"What we are saying is that it isn't a problem if the tailor is male but only women should take measurements," Chauhan said.

In a press note, the women's panel proposed that women's gyms and yoga centres should only have female trainers. The gym and the trainers should be verified, while CCTV and DVRs at the establishments should mandatorily be in working condition, it said. It said boutiques should have a female tailor to take women's measurements for clothes, with a functioning CCTV at the store. Shops selling women's clothes are required to have female employees, it said.

It is mandatory to have a female dance teacher at drama centres and a female security guard or teacher in school buses, the guidelines added.

The proposal has drawn mixed reactions, with Samajwadi Party MLA Ragini Sonkar saying it should be left to individuals to decide which store or gym they want to go to. —*PTI*

Shops selling women's clothes are required to have female employees, Uttar Pradesh State Women Commission said PHOTO: PTI

DESERT'S WINTER WONDERLAND

Saudi Arabia's Al-Jawf region experienced its first-ever recorded snowfall, transforming the arid desert landscape into a breath taking winter wonderland. This unprecedented phenomenon follows intense rain and hail storms that swept across the Kingdom
PHOTO: SCREENGRAB

'Sukhu ka samosa' mix-up leaves Himachal in a tizzy

What started as a simple delivery blunder has turned into a full-fledged scandal and CID probe that has left both the public and authorities confused in Himachal Pradesh. The drama unfolded when a batch of samosas meant for Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu ended up with his staff, prompting the CID to launch an inquiry into who exactly got the samosas and why. Was there foul play?

Samosas and cakes meant for Sukhu were served to his security staff instead, the goof-up snowballing into controversy and necessitating a CID probe that termed it an "anti-government" act.

The report stated that an officer of IG rank had asked a sub-inspector (SI) of police to get some eatables from the hotel for the CM's visit. The SI in turn directed an assistant SI (ASI) and a head constable to bring the refreshments.

The ASI and the head constable fetched the refreshments from the hotel in three sealed boxes and informed the SI.

The police officers in their statement said when they asked the tourism department staff on duty whether the snacks in the three boxes were to be served to the chief minister, they said they were not included in the menu.

The enquiry report said only the said SI, who deputed the ASI and the head constable with the task of getting the snacks from the hotel, was aware of the fact that the three boxes were for Sukhu.

The lady inspector, to whom the food items were handed over, did not ask any senior officer and sent the refreshments to the mechanical transport (MT) section which deals with refreshments.

The three boxes of refreshments exchanged several hands in the process.

A highly placed official in the CID department wrote in his noting that all persons named in the enquiry report have acted in "anti-CID" and "anti-government" manner due to which the items could not be served to the VVIPs.

Samosas and cakes meant for Chief Minister Sukhu were served to his security staff ***PHOTO: PTI/PIXABAY***

- The enquiry report said only the said SI, who deputed the ASI and the head constable with the task of getting the snacks from the hotel, was aware of the fact that the three boxes were for Sukhu

Sukhu said the probe was not into samosas which the media has turned it into, but it was to ascertain "misbehavior" of officials.

Sukhu also termed as "childish" BJP's attack on him over the issue, saying BJP has been running a smear campaign against the Congress government in the state ever since it won 40 seats in the last assembly elections.

"The probe was about misbehaviour of officials but the media has turned the CID probe into samosas. The DGP has already given a clarification in this regard," he told reporters here.

Sukhu also accused the BJP of running a campaign to run down his government since 'Operation Lotus' to dislodge his government failed.

BJP calls Congress govt 'laughing stock'

BJP chief Satpal Satti on Friday claimed Congress government has become a "laughing stock" for ordering an "inquiry into samosas".

"The police should focus on the many scandals, from the CM's office to the secretariat, instead of wasting their time on petty matters," Satti said in a statement issued here.

"It is surprising to hold an inquiry into such a small issue and then term the mistake as anti-government. I feel the Congress government is not bothered about the people, as their main concern is how samosas are being served at their functions. This government has totally failed and become a laughing stock," Satti said.

However, the media advisor to the chief minister, Naresh Chauhan, claimed the state government did not order any inquiry and it could be an internal matter of the CID.

"After the event, the officials were having tea in the office when someone asked where were the eatables brought for the function and we said, 'pata karo kya hua' (find out what happened)."

Meanwhile, BJP's chief spokesperson Randhir Sharma said in a statement, "The state government is not concerned with the development of Himachal Pradesh. Its sole focus seems to be 'chief minister's samosa'.

"This incident highlights a lack of coordination between the officials and employees, as well as negligence on their part."

Sharpening the attack, BJP spokesperson Chetan Bragata said in a video statement that an "inquiry into samosas" shows the "misplaced priorities" of the state government, especially at a time when the general public is grappling with several pressing issues.

"Developmental works have come to standstill in the past two years and the chief minister should pay attention to them and not such petty things," Bhagata said. *—PTI*

LETTERS write to us at salarenglishdigital@gmail.com

SALAR سالار

Myanmar's Rakhine could face acute famine: UN

Myanmar's Rakhine state, home to the Rohingya minority and engulfed in conflict between government forces and a powerful ethnic group, could face an imminent acute famine, the United Nations development agency warned in a new report.

The UN Development Programme said in the report issued Thursday that "a perfect storm is brewing" which has put western Rakhine "on the precipice of an unprecedented disaster."

It pointed to a chain of interlinked developments including restrictions on goods from elsewhere in Myanmar and neighboring Bangladesh, the absence of income for residents, hyper-inflation, significantly reduced food production, and a lack of essential services and social safety net.

As a result, UNDP said, "an already highly vulnerable population may be on the brink of collapse in the coming months."

Buddhist-majority Myanmar has long considered the Rohingya Muslim minority to be "Bengalis" from Bangladesh even though their families have lived in the country for generations. Nearly all have been denied citizenship since 1982.

In August 2017, attacks by a Rohingya insurgent group on Myanmar security personnel triggered a brutal campaign by the military which drove at least 740,000 Rohingya to Bangladesh. The military is accused of mass rape, killings and burning thousands of homes.

- UNDP called for immediate action to allow goods and humanitarian aid into Rakhine, enable unimpeded access for aid workers and ensure their safety, financial support

Since Myanmar's military seized power in 2021 from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, pro-democracy guerillas and ethnic minority armed forces have been attempting to oust the military from power.

Last November, the Arakan Army, which is seeking autonomy from Myanmar's central government, began an offensive against the military in Rakhine and has gained control of more than half of its townships.

The Arakan Army, which is the well-armed wing of the Rakhine ethnic minority movement, is also a member of the armed ethnic group alliance trying to topple the military.

The UNDP report said that based on data the agency collected in 2023 and 2024, "Rakhine's economy has stopped functioning, with critical sectors such as trade, agriculture, and construction nearly at a standstill."

With domestic and international markets no longer accessible because of blockades, UNDP said people's incomes are collapsing because they can't export goods, and that agricultural jobs are disappearing for the same reason.

In addition, it said, imports of cement have stopped, leading to "an exorbitant price increase" and shutting down the construction industry, a major employer.

The report, titled "Rakhine: A Famine in the Making," said, "Rakhine could face acute famine imminently."

"Internal rice production is plummeting due to a lack of seeds, fertilizers, severe weather conditions, a steep rise in the number of internally displaced people who can longer engage in cultivation, and escalating conflict," the UN agency said.

"This, along with the near-total cessation of internal and external trade, will leave over 2 million people at risk of starvation."

UNDP called for immediate action to allow goods and humanitarian aid into Rakhine, enable unimpeded access for aid workers and ensure their safety, and urgently provide financial resources to enable the agricultural sector to recover.

"Without urgent action, 95 per cent of the population will regress into survival mode, left to fend for themselves amid a drastic reduction in domestic production, skyrocketing prices, widespread unemployment, and heightened insecurity," UNDP warned. *—PTI*

In August 2017, attacks by a Rohingya insurgent group on Myanmar security personnel triggered a brutal campaign by the military, which drove at least 740,000 Rohingya to Bangladesh ***PHOTO: PTI***

Trump's poll victory spurs worry among migrants abroad

Donald Trump's victory in the United States presidential election instantly changed calculations for millions of migrants or potential migrants across the globe.

But perhaps not in the way Trump imagined.

Trump has pledged to reduce immigration. But by narrowing the already limited legal pathways into the US, migrants will just recalibrate their plans and resort in greater numbers to hiring smugglers, experts say.

In many cases that will mean turning to organised crime groups that increasingly profit from migrant smuggling.

Those potentially affected come from dozens of countries and many have already sold their homes and their possessions to fund the trip.

Venezuelans continue arriving at the US southern border in reduced, but still large numbers. Mexicans made up half of US Border Patrol arrests in September. Chinese come through Ecuador and make their way up through the Americas. Senegalese buy multi-stop flights to Nicaragua, then move north.

The UN's International Organisation for Migration estimates there are around 281 million international migrants in the world, or 3.6 per cent of the global population. An increasing number of people will be displaced for political, economic and violence reasons, and more migrants will seek asylum, according to its annual report. It warns that when people cannot find regular pathways, they start looking for "irregular channels that are extremely hazardous."

During Trump's first administration, Mexican border cities were saturated with migrants. Cartels preyed on them, kidnapping them, extorting their families for ransoms and forcibly recruiting them into their ranks. There were hundreds of arrivals every day, as well as thousands who were made to wait out the potentially yearslong US asylum application process in Mexico.

A US program called CBP One brought some order after it was introduced by the Biden administration in early 2023. Migrants no longer have to come to the border to schedule an appointment and can do it on their smartphones. Once overflowing border shelters have emptied and many families are making every effort to go the legal route.

Trump has pledged to end CBP One. He also wants to again restrict refugee resettlement and warned throughout his campaign of mass deportations.

Donald Trump has pledged to reduce immigration but by narrowing the already limited legal pathways into the US, migrants will just recalibrate their plans and resort in greater numbers to hiring smugglers ***PHOTO: X***

While his victory was deflating and worrisome to those en route to the United States, it was not a deal-breaker.

On Tuesday night, Bárbara Rodríguez, a 33-year-old Venezuelan, should have been sleeping after walking more than eight miles through southern Mexico's tropical heat with some 2,500 others from at least a dozen countries.

Back in Caracas, Rodríguez helped monitor a polling place for the opposition during Venezuela's July election. After President Nicolas Maduro claimed reelection, his supporters began to harass her family.

"Either my family's lives were going to be at risk or I had to leave the country," she said. In September, she sold her house and left her three children with her mother.

Now her plan of waiting for a CBP One appointment to request asylum at the U.S. border has an expiration date.

Martha Bárcena, Mexico's former US ambassador during most of Trump's first administration, said migrants were the losers from his immigration policies and that could happen again.

"Organised crime is the big beneficiary, because the income from illegal human trafficking is already equal to or greater than the income from drugs," she said.

Estefanía Ramos of Guatemala woke up worried Wednesday in a Ciudad Juarez shelter across from El Paso, Texas.

She and her husband left Guatemala after a gang threatened to harm him and kidnap her, she said. They have been waiting for three months for a CBP One appointment. Two months ago they had a baby girl.

On Wednesday in Ciudad Juarez, a few dozen asylum seekers with appointments waited patiently to be called across the international bridge.

Gretchen Kuhner, director of IMUMI, a nongovernmental legal services organization in Mexico, was in the southern Mexican city of Tuxtla Gutierrez last week, where she found migrant families with young children living in the streets waiting for CBP One appointments.

Further restrictions on the already difficult process would leave vulnerable populations with few options, said Mark Hetfield, CEO of the US-based refugee support organization HIAS.

And then there's the specter of massive deportations. Trump made a similar threat before and didn't deliver, but there's real concern.

Deportations to countries like Cuba and Venezuela could be complicated by icy relations, though Venezuela's Maduro issued a conciliatory message congratulating Trump Wednesday. Advocates in Haiti on Thursday demanded countries, including the US, halt deportations because of the country's domestic crisis.

And no country stands to be more impacted than Mexico. There are some 11 million Mexicans living in the US, about 5 million of whom don't have legal status. Mexicans sent home more than $63 billion in remittances last year, mostly from the United States. Mass deportations would shake the finances of millions of families and the Mexican economy would struggle to absorb them.

Migrant advocates and shelter directors in Mexico said they've heard of no government plans to deal with large numbers of deportees.

Mexican aid groups are "not in a position to receive that quantity of people and let's be honest, it's civil society that carries on its shoulders most of the humanitarian response toward those who are deported or in transit," said Rafael Velásquez García, Mexico director for the International Rescue Committee.

Mexico needs to prepare itself for all manner of pressures coming from a Trump administration, said Carlos Pérez Ricart, a professor of international relations at Mexican public research center CIDE. *—PTI*

Judge strikes down Biden policy on deportation

WASHINGTON DC, 8 NOV

A federal judge on Thursday struck down a Biden administration policy that aimed to ease a path to citizenship for some undocumented immigrants who are married to US citizens. The program, lauded as one of the biggest presidential actions to help immigrant families in years, allowed undocumented spouses and stepchildren of U.S. citizens to apply for a green card without first having to leave the country. The temporary relief from deportation brought a brief sense of security to some 500,000 immigrants estimated to benefit from the program before Texas-based US District Judge J Campbell Barker put it on hold in August, days after applicants filed their paperwork. Barker ruled that Biden overstepped its authority by implementing the programme. *—PTI*

2 dead after fishing boat sinks off S Korea's Jeju Island

SEOUL, 8 NOV

A fishing boat capsized and sank off the coast of South Korea's Jeju island Friday, leaving at least two people dead and 12 others unaccounted for, coast guard officials said. Nearby fishing vessels managed to pull 15 crew members out of the water, but two of them were later pronounced dead after being brought to shore. The other 13 did not sustain life-threatening injuries, said Kim Han-na, an official at Jeju's coast guard. 16 South Korean nationals and 11 foreigners – were on the 129-ton boat, which left Jeju's Seogwipo port late. The coast guard received a distress signal at around 4.30am on Friday that conducted rescue efforts as the boat sank 24km northwest of the island. *—PTI*

11 candidates held in SL for violating election laws

COLOMBO, 8 NOV

At least 11 Sri Lankan candidates contesting the parliamentary polls have been arrested for violating election laws. Sri Lanka will go to polls on 14 November. A total of 8,888 candidates will be contesting in the general elections. The parliamentary election is scheduled following the presidential election that was held on 21 September in the cash-strapped nation. Third would be the local council elections in December. Saman Sri Ratnayake the Director General of the election commission said candidates have been placed under watch for possible violations and if found guilty they could be unseated if elected. At least 11 candidates have been held.*—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Typhoon damages 2 domestic airports in Philippines

MANILA, 8 NOV

Typhoon Yinxing battered the northern Philippines with floods and landslides before blowing away from the country on Friday, leaving two airports damaged and aggravating a calamity caused by back-to-back storms that hit in recent weeks. There were no immediate reports of casualties from Yinxing, the 13th major storm to hit the disaster-prone Southeast Asian archipelago this year. The typhoon, locally called Marce, was last tracked over the South China Sea about 100km west of the northern Philippine province of Ilocos Norte with sustained winds of up to 150kph and gusts of up to 205kph. It is expected to weaken further before hitting Vietnam. In the northernmost island province of Batanes, Gov Marilou Cayco said Yinxing's fierce winds and rain blew away roofs and damaged seaports and two domestic airport terminals. *—PTI*

Susie Wiles is 1st first female US Chief of Staff

She will also be in charge of all WH policy, serving as an adviser and managing day-to-day affairs

FLORIDA, 8 NOV

US President-elect Donald Trump on Thursday named his campaign manager Susan Summerall Wiles as White House Chief of Staff, his first major appointment since winning this week's election.

Her appointment was confirmed by US Vice President-elect JD Vance. "This is great news. Susie was a huge asset to President Trump on the campaign and will be a huge asset in the White House. She's also just a really good person. Onward!," Vance posted on X.

Vance said that Wiles would serve as the first-ever female Chief of Staff in the history of the US.

In a statement posted on X, he said, "The 45th and 47th President of the United States of America Donald J Trump announced today that Susan Summerall Wiles, the winning Campaign Manager for President Trump's highly successful 2024 Campaign for President, will be named President Trump's White House Chief of Staff."

"Susie Wiles just helped me achieve one of the greatest political victories in American history, and was an integral part of both my 2016 and 2020 successful campaigns," President Trump said. "Susie is tough, smart, innovative, and is universally admired and respected.

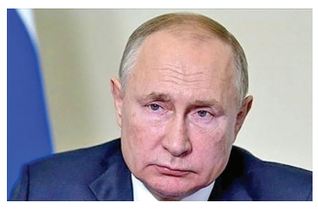
Susie will continue to work tirelessly to Make America Great Again. It is a well-deserved honour to have Susie as the first-ever female Chief of Staff in United States history. I have no doubt that she will make our country proud," the statement further read.

Once Trump is sworn in as president, Wiles will also be in charge of all White House policy, serving as a confidante and adviser and managing day-to-day affairs.

US president-elect Donald Trump with his campaign manager Susie Wiles
PHOTO: X/@SUSIEWILES

Trudeau will be gone in the next election: Musk

Tesla CEO and billionaire Elon Musk took a dig at Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and predicted his downfall in the upcoming Canadian federal election. It will be a test for Trudeau, who has been leading the Liberal Party since 2013. Musk's comment stems from Trudeau's minority government, which makes him more vulnerable to losing power. *—ANI*



Trump's behaviour at the moment of an attempt on his life left an impression on me. He turned out to be a brave man. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate him on his election as president of the United States of America

-Vladimir Putin, Russian President

Earlier in the day, US President Joe Biden congratulated Trump and said that he would ensure an orderly transition of power following his victory in the presidential election.

Biden emphasized that the will of the people prevails in a democracy and that his administration will work with Trump's team to ensure a peaceful transfer of power.

In a post on X, he said, "Yesterday, I spoke with President-elect Trump to congratulate him on his victory. And I assured him that I would direct my entire Administration to work with his team to ensure a peaceful and orderly transition. That's what the American people deserve." *—ANI*

BIDEN LOOKS THE HAPPIEST: TRUMP JR

Outgoing US President Joe Biden's 7 November address stole the show as he looked bright and "the happiest" following Republics' win in 2024 Presidential elections. His however caught T Donald Trump Junior attention who was compelled to believe that Biden was the "only person happier than" him after Trump's win. Taking to X, he said: "The only person happier than me this morning. has to be Joe Biden." Even political commentator Ben Shapiro wrote, "Joe Biden is the happiest man in America today". Making wild guesses over Biden's big bright smile, some social media users even joked Biden may have "secretly voted for Donald Trump". *—Agencies*

HI-TECH SECURITY

A video that surfaced on social media has revealed a robotic dog equipped with light machine guns, GPS systems, scanning detectors, and various sensors patrolling Donald Trump's estate, alongside armored vehicles and patrol boats
PHOTO: SCREENGRAB

Israeli soccer fans attacked in Amsterdam

AMSTERDAM, 8 NOV

Amsterdam police on Friday said that five people were hospitalised and 62 were arrested after authorities said antisemitic rioters attacked Israeli supporters following a soccer match.

The police said in a post on X that they have started a major investigation into multiple violent incidents.

Earlier, a statement issued by the Dutch capital's municipality, police and prosecution office said that the night following the Europa League match between Ajax and Maccabi Tel Aviv "was very turbulent with several incidents of violence aimed at Maccabi supporters."

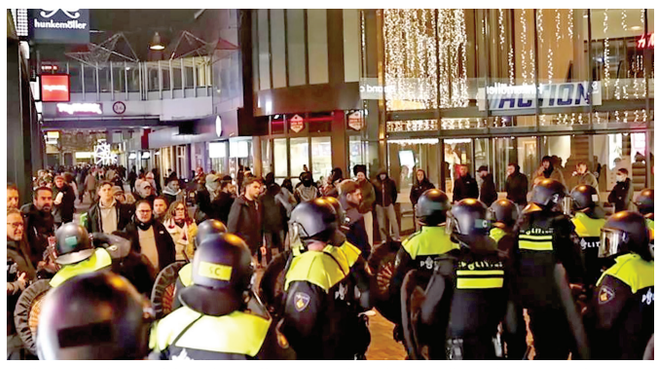
The violence was condemned by the leaders of both the Netherlands and Israel as antisemitic. Israel announced it was sending planes to the Dutch capital to fly fans home.

"In several places in the city, supporters were attacked. The police had to intervene several times, protect Israeli supporters and escort them to hotels. Despite the massive police presence in the city, Israeli supporters have been injured," the Amsterdam statement said.

"This outburst of violence toward Israeli supporters is unacceptable and cannot be defended in any way. There is no excuse for the antisemitic behaviour exhibited last night by rioters who actively sought out Israeli supporters to attack and assault them," it added.

Authorities said extra police would patrol the city in coming days and security will be beefed up at Jewish institutions in the city that has a large Jewish community and was home to Jewish World War II diarist Anne Frank and her family as they hid from Nazi occupiers.

The violence erupted despite a ban on a pro-Palestinian demonstration near the soccer stadium imposed by Amsterdam Mayor Femke Halsema, who had feared that clashes would break out between protesters and supporters of the Israeli soccer club. *—PTI*



Police stand guard forming a line near the Ajax stadium, in Amsterdam, Netherlands, following the attack
PHOTO: SCREENGRAB

CALIFORNIA ON FIRE

Flames engulf a structure in a wildfire near Camarillo in California. According to officials, 132 structures were destroyed and at least 14,000 people were told to evacuate. As of Friday, the blaze burned over 20,000acres of land ***PHOTO: PTI***

Trudeau revives panel to address Trump presidency

TORONTO, 8 NOV

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said on Friday that he is re-establishing a special Cabinet committee on Canada-US relations to address his administration's concerns about another Donald Trump presidency.

Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland, who is also the country's finance minister, will chair the committee, which also will include other top officials including ministers of foreign affairs, public safety and industry.

Canada is one of the most trade-dependent countries in the world, and 75 per cent of Canada's exports go to the US.

During Trump's first time, his move to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA, and reports that he was considering a 25 per cent tariff on the auto sector were considered an existential threat in Canada at the time. Ottawa will soon have to focus on a scheduled review of the agreement in 2026. Although Trump once called Trudeau "weak" and "dishonest", ties between the two countries have remained among the closest in the world.

The Canadian government notes the US and Canada are each other's largest trade partners with nearly 3.6 billion Canadian dollars (USD 2.7 billion) worth of goods and services crossing the border each day in 2023. *— PTI*

Russia blasts Ukraine with aerial attacks

KYIV, 8 NOV

Russian missiles, bombs and drones battered three regions of Ukraine in targeted nighttime attacks, officials said Friday, as Russia mounts an intensified aerial campaign that Ukrainian officials say they need more Western help to counter — even as doubts deepen over what Kyiv can expect from a new US administration.

Since the war began almost three years ago following Russia's full-scale invasion of its neighbor, the Russian military has repeatedly used its superior air power to blast civilian targets across Ukraine. More than 10,000 Ukrainian civilians have been killed in the conflict, according to the United Nations.

A 500kg glide bomb severely damaged a high-rise apartment building in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, in the middle of the night, regional Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said. At least 25 people, including an infant, were injured, he said. In the southern city of Odesa, a Russian drone attack killed one person and injured nine others overnight. In the capital Kyiv, falling wreckage from intercepted missiles injured four people, regional Gov. Ruslan Kravchenko said.

In total, Russia fired 92 drones and five missiles at Ukraine during the night, Ukraine's air force said. Four missiles and 62 drones were intercepted, and 26 drones were jammed electronically, it claimed. *— PTI*

An apartment building hit in a Russian attack in Kharkiv, Ukraine, on early Friday
PHOTO: PTI

N Korean soldiers addicted to porn after online access

MOSCOW, 8 NOV

North Korean soldiers, fighting Ukraine alongside Russia have reportedly grown addicted to porn after getting unrestricted internet access.

Like Kim, Vladimir Putin's regime also censors online material, with the tyrant banning leading sites like PornHub and YouPorn back in 2016, and regulators proposing a ban on all adult material back 2021. The watchdog claimed it would protect underage internet users

As Moscow-North Korea ties get stronger, Russia deployed more than 7,000 North Korean soldiers, armed with AK-12 rifles, among other assault weapons, to Ukraine border.

—Agencies

SUICIDE RULED OUT

3 charged in connection with Liam Payne's death

BUENOS AIRES, 8 NOV

Three people have been charged over the death of One Direction singer Liam Payne's death, according to the Argentine prosecutor's office.

Payne had traces of alcohol, cocaine and a prescription antidepressant in his system when he died, authorities said in a statement. They have also ruled out suicide.

They have charged someone close to Payne, a hotel employee, and a suspected drug dealer, it was announced on Thursday.

All three are accused of playing a role in giving Payne the drugs. The person who was visiting with Payne is also charged with "abandonment of a person followed by death", authorities said. Payne, who had a child, died at the age of 31 after falling from a third-floor balcony on 16 October in Buenos Aires. He died from multiple injuries caused by the fall. His body was found in the hotel's internal courtyard. Payne was a member of the popular boy band One Direction, formed in 2010. Following his death, police found substances in his hotel room, such as packs of clonazepam, a central nervous system depressant, energy supplements and other over-the-counter drugs strewn among his belongings.

In recent years, Payne had acknowledged struggling with alcoholism, saying in a YouTube video posted in July 2023 that he had been sober for six months after receiving treatment. *—Al Jazeera*

Liam Payne ***PHOTO: AP***

China to unveil economic stimulus package

BEIJING, 8 NOV

China is expected to announce much-anticipated steps to boost its flagging economy Friday at the end of this week's meeting of its legislature.

Analysts say bold, multi-trillion-yuan measures are needed to reinvigorate the world's second largest economy, which has yet to bounce back fully from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The central bank loosened restrictions on borrowing in late September, sparking a stock market rally, but economists say the government needs to do more to ignite a sustained recovery. Government have indicated that could come at this week's meeting of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. *—PTI*

Philippine signs new laws to assert South China Sea rights

MANILA, 8 NOV

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr signed two laws on Friday reaffirming the extent of his country's maritime territories and right to resources, including in the South China Sea, where the new laws clash with Beijing's extensive territorial claims.

The move angered Beijing, and China's foreign ministry said it summoned the Philippines ambassador to China to lodge a "stern protest." The ministry condemned the move as an attempt to "solidify the illegal ruling of the South China Sea arbitration case through domestic legislation."

The laws, called the Philippine Maritime Zones act and the Philippine Archipelagic Sea Lanes act, were signed by Marcos in a nationally televised ceremony attended by top military and national security officials.

They further cement Manila's rejection of China's claims to virtually the entire sea passage, and stipulate jail terms and stiff fines for violators.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said the move "seriously infringes on China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea."

"China strongly condemns and firmly opposes it," she said. *—PTI*

Ferdinand Marcos Jr
PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

Reliance Power shares drop 5%, hit lower circuit limit

SECI bars firm for 3 years for submitting 'fake document'

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

The shares of Reliance Power Ltd fell by 5 per cent on Friday as the company and Reliance NU BESS Ltd have been debarred from participating in Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI) tenders for three years for allegedly submitting "fake documents".

The stock tanked 4.99 per cent to Rs 41.47 – its lower circuit limit – on the BSE. On the NSE, shares of the firm dropped 5 per cent to hit the lowest trading permissible limit for the day at Rs 41.58.

In a note, the SECI said, "Based on the examination of documents submitted by Maharashtra Energy Generation, now known as Reliance NU BESS (for a project), it was discovered that as per the tender requirements, the endorsement of the Bank Guarantee against EMD (issued by a foreign Bank), as submitted by the Bidder, was fake."

The stock tanked 4.99 per cent to Rs 41.47 on BSE PHOTO: X

The issue is related to the RfS issued by SECI for setting up 1000 MW/2000 MWh Standalone BESS Projects under tariff-based competitive bidding.

Since the above discrepancy was discovered subsequent to the e-reverse auction, the SECI was constrained to annul the tendering process.

The SECI said it has debarred Reliance Power and Reliance NU BESS from participating in tenders issued for a period of three years.

According to tender conditions, the above submission of a fake document as part of its response to RfS rendered the bidder eligible for debarment from future tenders issued by SECI. —PTI

BLUE-CHIP STOCKS DOWN

Sensex, Nifty slide amid FFI exodus

MUMBAI, 8 NOV

PHOTO: PTI

Stock markets closed lower for the second straight day on Friday amid relentless foreign fund outflows and losses in blue-chip stocks Reliance Industries, ICICI Bank and State Bank of India.

Benchmark BSE Sensex declined by 55.47 points or 0.07 per cent to settle at 79,486.32. During the day, it tanked 424.42 points or 0.53 per cent to 79,117.37. The NSE Nifty dipped 51.15 points or 0.21 per cent to 24,148.20.

From the 30-share Sensex pack, Asian Paints, Tata Steel, State Bank of India, Reliance Industries, NTPC, Tata Motors, ICICI Bank and IndusInd Bank were the biggest laggards. Mahindra & Mahindra, Titan, Tech Mahindra, Infosys, Nestle and Hindustan Unilever were among the gainers.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 4,888.77 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data. In Asian markets, Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower while Tokyo ended in the positive territory. Wall Street ended mostly higher on Thursday.

BSE benchmark tanked 836.34 points or 1.04 per cent to settle at 79,541.79 on Thursday. —PTI

Sibaji Biswas is new CFO of Sony Pictures

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

Sony Pictures Networks India (SPNI) on Friday announced the appointment of Sibaji Biswas as its new Chief Financial Officer (CFO), effective the first week of January 2025. In this role, Biswas will lead the SPNI financial strategy, planning and corporate finance, to enhance operational efficiency and growth across the company's multi-channel and digital platforms, the company said. Biswas had been the CFO and executive director at Syngene International, a Biocon Group firm. His previous stints include a 12-year tenure at Vodafone, where he held roles such as CFO of Vodafone Romania, EVP of Corporate Development and Head of Procurement. SPNI Managing Director & CEO Gaurav Banerjee said Sibaji's financial expertise and strategic approach make him a strong fit for SPNI's leadership team. —PTI

INVESTORS CAUTIOUS

Global rate cuts to keep markets under pressure

MUMBAI, 8 NOV

Domestic markets entered a volatile phase, responding to global economic developments and fluctuations in local indicators, said a Union Bank of India report.

The 10-year government bond yield softened slightly, closing at 6.82 per cent, down from the previous session, while the 5-year bond yield held steady at 6.76 per cent.

This shift in bond yields reflects cautious investor sentiment amid uncertain global conditions.

In the foreign exchange market, the Indian rupee faced a significant depreciation, ending the day at Rs84.3725 against the US dollar, down from Rs84.2800 in the prior session.

Analysts attribute the rupee's decline to capital outflows, which added pressure on the currency as investors moved funds to perceived safer assets abroad.

Decline was fuelled by the results of the US election PHOTO: X

The Indian stock market took a sharp downturn, falling by over 1 per cent and erasing gains from the previous rally. This decline was fuelled by the results of the US presidential election, which introduced fresh uncertainty to global markets.

Experts noted that these political shifts, along with upcoming central bank decisions, contributed to an atmosphere of caution in Indian equities. —ANI

Swiggy IPO fully subscribed on day 3

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

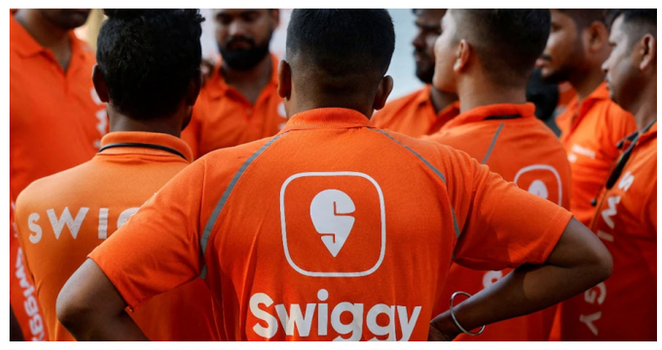
The initial public offer (IPO) of food delivery and quick-commerce major Swiggy was fully subscribed on the third day of the share sale on Friday.

The Rs 11,327-crore initial share sale received bids for 40,59,18,888 shares against 16,01,09,703 shares on offer, translating into 2.54 times subscription, as per NSE data till 1418 hours.

The portion for Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) got subscribed 4.16 times while Retail Individual Investors (RIIs) received 1.03 times subscription. The quota for non-institutional investors fetched 30 per cent subscription.

Swiggy on Tuesday said it has collected Rs 5,085 crore from anchor investors. The Bengaluru-based company's IPO has a price range of Rs 371–390 a share.

The company's IPO has a fresh issue of shares worth Rs 4,499 crore along with an offer for sale of Rs 6,828 crore. The valuation of Swiggy has been pegged at about USD 11.3 billion (about Rs 95,000 crore) at the upper end of the price band.



The Rs 11,327-cr initial share sale received bids for 40,59,18,888 shares against 16,01,09,703 shares on offer PHOTO: X

- The company's IPO has a fresh issue of shares worth Rs 4,499 crore along with an offer for sale of Rs 6,828 crore & valuation is pegged at about Rs 95, 000 cr

Going by the draft papers, the company plans to utilise the proceeds from the fresh issue for investing in technology and cloud infrastructure, brand marketing and business promotion and debt payment.

Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Ltd, JP Morgan India Pvt Ltd, Citigroup Global Markets India Pvt Ltd, BofA Securities India Ltd, Jefferies India Pvt Ltd, ICICI Securities Ltd, and Avendus Capital Pvt Ltd are the book-running lead managers to the offer. —PTI

Paramesu Biotech files ₹600 cr IPO

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

Paramesu Biotech Ltd has filed preliminary papers with capital markets regulator Sebi to raise Rs 600 crore through an Initial Public Offering (IPO). The proposed IPO is a combination of a fresh issue of shares worth Rs 520 crore and an Offer-For-Sale of shares worth Rs 80 crore by promoter Unimark Business Solutions Private Ltd, according to the Draft Red Herring Prospectus filed on Thursday. Proceeds from the fresh issue worth Rs 330 crore will be used for setting up a new plant of 1,200 TPD (tonnes per day) in Madhya Pradesh, Rs 85 crore for payment of debt and the rest towards general corporate purposes. The company is equipped with a current installed capacity of 800 TPD. —PTI

MoSPI to release GDP data 90 min early

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on Friday said it has advanced the release of macroeconomic data Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimates by about 90 mins to 4pm.

As per the current practice, the press releases of GDP are scheduled at 5.30 pm on the specified release dates, a MoSPI statement said.

The MoSPI said it decided to revise the release schedule to provide the users more time on the day of release to access GDP data.

The new release time aligns with the closing hours of major financial markets in India, ensuring that GDP data dissemination does not interfere with active trading, it stated.

The MoSPI said it decided to revise the release schedule to provide the users more time on the day of release to access GDP data PHOTO: ANI

This adjustment also adheres to MoSPI's commitment to transparency and accessibility in data dissemination.

The next press release of GDP estimates for the second quarter (July–September) of financial year 2024–25 will thus be available on November 29, 2024, at 4 pm on the website of the Press Information Bureau and the ministry's official website (https://www.mospi.gov.in).

The National Statistical Office of the MoSPI releases annual and quarterly estimates of GDP in accordance with the pre-specified releases/publication schedule laid down in advance release calendar of various macroeconomic indicators.

Earlier this month, the MoSPI also revised the time for release of Index of Industrial Production and Consumer Price Index from 5.30pm to 4.00pm. —PTI

Forex kitty drops by $2.67B to $682.13 billion

MUMBAI, 8 NOV

India's forex reserves declined by USD 2.675 billion to USD 682.13 billion for the week ended 1 November, the RBI said on Friday.

In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had dropped by USD 3.463 billion to USD 684.805 billion. In September- end, the reserves had hit an all-time high of USD 704.885 billion.

For the week ended 1 November, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased by USD 3.902 billion to USD 589.849 billion. Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

PHOTO: X

Gold reserves increased by USD 1.224 billion to USD 69.751 billion during the week, the RBI said. India's reserve position with IMF was up by USD 4 million to USD 4.311 billion in reporting week. —PTI

Birla Fashion posts ₹214.7 cr loss in Sept qtr

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail Ltd (ABFRL), in a regulatory filing on Thursday, reported a consolidated net loss of Rs 214.70 crore in the September 2024 quarter. The company had posted a net loss of Rs 200.34 crore during the same quarter in 2023. Its revenue from operations was Rs 3,643.86 during the quarter under review. The same stood at Rs 3,226.44 crore in the year-ago period. The consolidated financial results for the quarter ended on September 30, 2024, are "not comparable with previous quarters" pursuant to the amalgamation of TCNS Clothing and acquisition of Goodview Fashion Private during the current quarter, the Aditya Birla group firm said. Shares of ABFRL were trading at Rs 303.25 on the BSE on Friday, down 2.16 per cent. —PTI

Tata, S'pore tie up for semiconductor

MUMBAI, 8 NOV

Tata Sons will choose Singapore as a "key partner" for its semiconductor plans, a senior minister from the city-state said on Friday.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting with Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran earlier in the day, Singapore's minister for home affairs and law K Shanmugam said semiconductors was a "big discussion" point during the meeting.

"If they (Tatas) want to, they can do business with anybody in the world. It's not that they need to do it in Singapore, but they will, I think, choose Singapore as a key partner. Not only partner, but as a key partner," Shanmugam said.

The country is home to 25 semiconductor foundries, he said, acknowledging that the level of sophistication at which these work may not be the best in the world.

Notably, the Tata Group has ambitious plans on the semiconductor manufacturing front which include investment of Rs 91,000 crore for a facility in Gujarat and Rs 27,000 crore for another in Assam. —PTI

SBI Q2 net profit jumps 23% to Rs 19,782 cr

MUMBAI, 8 NOV

SBI on Friday reported a 23 per cent on-year jump in consolidated net profit at Rs 19,782 crore for the quarter ended 30 September, 2024.

The consolidated net profit for the corresponding period last year stood at Rs 16,099 crore.

On a standalone basis, the country's largest lender reported a net profit of Rs 18,331 crore, as against Rs 14,330 crore in the year ago period and Rs 17,035 crore in the preceding quarter.

The total income of the bank which has seen a leadership transition with C S Setty taking over as the chairman in August rose to Rs 1.29 lakh crore, from Rs 1.12 lakh crore in the year-ago period. —PTI

Zoomcar raises $9.15M from capital investors

PHOTO: X

MUMBAI, 8 NOV

Self-drive car-sharing platform Zoomcar on Friday said it has raised USD 9.15M from institutional investors. The proceeds will be used for repayment of approximately USD 3.8M in debt and the remaining amount for general corporate purposes and working capital needs. In connection with the private placement, the company said it issued an aggregate of 21,37,850 units, with each unit sold at an effective price of USD 4.28 and consisting one share of common stock and two Series A warrants. "This resulted in the issuance of Series A warrants exercisable for an aggregate of up to 4,275,700 shares stock, and one Series B warrant at of USD 0.0001. —PTI

Rupee falls 5 paise, at new all-time low of 84.37

MUMBAI, 8 NOV

Declining for the third straight session, the rupee dropped 5 paise to hit a new lifetime low of 84.37 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday, weighed down by persistent foreign fund outflows and a muted trend in domestic equities.

Forex traders said the US Federal Reserve's recent decision to cut interest rates signals a shift in the global financial landscape. Moreover, with Donald Trump's tax and trade policies influencing global markets, volatility could re-enter the rupee's trajectory.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 84.32 against the US dollar. During the session, the local currency touched a high of 84.31 and a low of 84.38. It finally settled at 84.37 (provisional), a loss of 5 paise against its previous close.

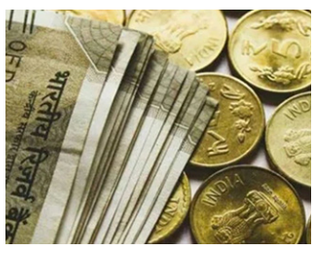


PHOTO: PTI

On Thursday, the rupee slipped 1 paisa to close at a fresh lifetime low of 84.32 against the US dollar.

In the last three sessions, the local unit has lost 28 paise against the greenback. —PTI

WORLD GOLD COUNCIL DATA

Gold glitters with strong inflows in Asia

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

Global gold exchange-traded funds (ETFs) have recorded their first positive demand for 2024, with year-to-date inflows reaching 18 tonnes, according to the World Gold Council. Asian markets are leading the surge, bringing total assets under management up by an impressive 33 per cent, as inflows this year have hit a substantial USD 4.7 billion.

Asian gold ETFs attracted USD 2.1B in October alone, marking the region's 20th consecutive month of inflows. China has seen record-breaking investment in gold ETFs, spurred by soaring local gold prices and rising stock market volatility.

Asian gold ETFs attracted USD 2.1B in October alone PHOTO: X

The positive momentum in gold prices, coupled with stock market fluctuations, has boosted interest in gold as a stable asset. Recent adjustments in India's long-term capital gains tax treatment for gold have further increased its appeal to investors.

Improved trading volumes in over-the-counter markets and heightened ETF activity have also played a role in strengthening global gold demand. With global gold prices remaining strong and volatility continuing in equity markets, gold is becoming an increasingly attractive investment. This trend has translated into robust inflows, elevating gold ETFs to their highest asset levels in 2024. As geopolitical and economic uncertainties persist, gold ETFs are likely to remain a key choice for investors looking for stability.

North American gold ETFs reported inflows for the fourth consecutive month in October, adding USD 2.7 billion to the sector.

Gold prices rose Rs 500 to reclaim the Rs 80,000 mark in the national capital on Friday amid fresh buying by local jewellers and retailers for the wedding festivities, according to the All India Sarafa Association. —PTI

Chennai Grandmasters: Erigaisi climbs to No. 2 in world rankings

The 21-year-old Telangana youth says he got 'lucky' as he secures second win

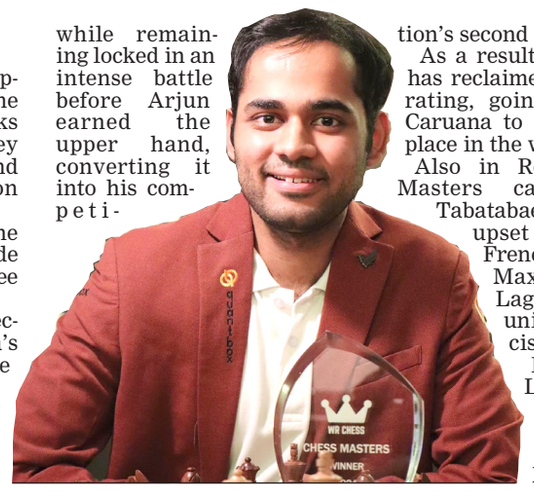
CHENNAI, 8 NOV

India's Arjun Erigaisi leapfrogged to second place in the world chess rankings thanks to his victory over Alexey Sarana in the Chennai Grand Masters 2024 here on Thursday.

He is jointly leading the Masters category alongside Amin Tabatabaei after three rounds.

Starting with the black pieces, Arjun reacted to Sarana's Queen's Pawn Opening as he engaged him in the Indian Game before swiftly going for an East Indian Defense.

Both players knocked off their kings early in the tie while remaining locked in an intense battle before Arjun earned the upper hand, converting it into his competition's second win.



As a result, the 21-year-old has reclaimed his 2,800 ELO rating, going past Fabiano Caruana to take the second place in the world rankings.

Also in Round 3 of the Masters category, Amin Tabatabaei caused a big upset as he beat French Grandmaster Maxime Vachier-Lagrave with his unique tactical precision.

In the meantime, Levon Aronian came up with a dominant victory over Parham Maghsoodloo of Iran, asserting his presence in the event.

India's Vidit Gujrathi brushed aside his consecutive defeats with a gritty yet tactical draw against local favorite Aravindh Chithambaram.

Also, Pranav V continued his outstanding streak in the Challengers category, producing his third straight success by beating Karthikeyan Murali.

At the same time, Pranesh M defeated Vaishali Rameshbabu to strengthen his position.

However, a hard-fought fixture between Raunak Sadhwani and Leon Mendonca ended in a draw, as did the Harika Dronavalli-Abhimanyu Puranik clash.

After Round 3, Arjun and Tabatabaei jointly lead the Masters category with 2.5 points, with Aronian in third, 0.5 points behind.

Pranav is at the top of the chart in the Challengers category, with 3.0 points, having prevailed in all three of his

- Starting with the black pieces, Arjun reacted to Sarana's Queen's Pawn Opening as he engaged him in the Indian Game before swiftly going for an East Indian Defense.

PAK VS AUSTRALIA ODI

Haris Rauf decimates Australia's batters PHOTO: PTI

Rauf, Ayub hand Pak first win in Australia since 2017

ADELAIDE, 8 NOV

Haris Rauf ripped through Australia's middle-order for the second consecutive game, and this time it wasn't in vain as a sparkling innings from Saim Ayub led Pakistan's charge to a series-levelling nine-wicket victory at the Adelaide Oval with a mammoth 23.3 overs to spare.

This was a complete hammering of the ODI World Champions. After his hair-raising spell in Melbourne, Rauf ran through the hosts' batting - his delivery to remove Marnus Labuschagne was particularly superb - to finish with the second five-wicket haul of his ODI career.

Then, after an initially cautious start to the chase by Ayub and Abdullah Shafique, the former blossomed into an innings of spectacular strokes, not least a pick-up against a pick-up flick off Mitchell Starc that went into the stands.

Ayub had made just 7 from 27 balls when he punched away a square drive against Josh Hazlewood and from there he was away.

He magnificently deposited Pat Cummins and then Starc into the crowd before slog-sweeping another off Adam Zampa's third delivery. Given a life on 47 when Zampa spilled a chance at deep point, his fifty came from 52 balls and a maiden century was on offer before he sliced to short third with job all-but done to end a rollicking opening stand of 137.

Pakistan 169 for 1(Ayub 82, Shafique 64*, Zampa 1-44) beat Australia 163 (Smith 35, Rauf 5-29, Afridi 3-26) by nine wickets. —*PTI*

AGEING KOHLI, ROHIT MUST REKINDLE YOUTHFUL MINDSET: CHAPPELL

MELBOURNE, 8 NOV

As Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma prepare for one of their career's defining challenges in Australia in the upcoming Test series, former India head coach Greg Chappell believes the two stalwarts can "rekindle" the energy and focus of their youth to rediscover their lost glory.

Wounded by an unprecedented 0-3 home series defeat to New Zealand, India will look to defend the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in the marquee five-match Test series in Australia beginning on 22 November.

According to Chappell, the aging Sharma and Kohli must summon the same drive and focus that once marked their prime years if India hopes to reclaim its form on foreign soil. Reflecting on a conversation with Indian legend Sachin Tendulkar in 2005, Chappell shared insights into the hurdles players face as they age.

Tendulkar had sought Chappell's perspective and asked "Greg, why does batting become harder as you get older? Surely it should get easier?"

"I explained to him that the mental demands of batting intensify with age," Chappell wrote in a column for 'Sydney Morning Herald'. "Batting gets harder because you realize how hard it is to make runs at this level and how difficult it is to maintain the mental focus that is required to be successful," the Australian batting legend wrote. —*PTI*

Kiran George enters semifinals of Korea Masters

IKSAN CITY, 8 NOV

India's Kiran George continued his spectacular run in the Korea Masters badminton tournament as he stormed into the men's singles semifinals with a straight-game win over fifth seed Takuma Obayashi of Japan here on Friday. The 24-year-old, ranked 41st, beat world number 34 Obayashi 21-14 21-16 in just 39 minutes to register yet another upset win in the BWF World Tour Super 300 event. George runs into Thailand's top seed and world number five Kunlavut Vitidsarn -- who won 21-15 21-11 against Liu Liang of China in the semifinals on Saturday.The Indian had beaten third seed Chi Yu Jen of Chinese Taipei in the pre-quarterfinals.George, the lone Indian shuttler competing in the tournament, was in control of the match throughout. After a 1-1 scoreline, he was always in the lead in the first game.—*PTI*

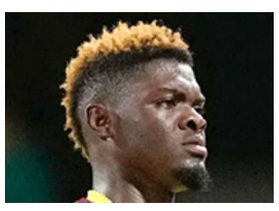


PHOTO: PTI

West Indies fast bowler Alzarri Joseph suspended

BRIDGETOWN, 8 NOV

Fast bowler Alzarri Joseph has been suspended for two matches by Cricket West Indies over his very public disagreement with captain Shai Hope over field placements during a one-day international against England. While West Indies was bowling during the match Wednesday which the Caribbean side won by eight wickets to clinch the three-match series, Joseph left the field in a remarkable protest over the field set by Hope during one of the fast bowler's overs. Joseph and Hope engaged in a lengthy argument before the fourth over which was bowled by Joseph and had to be urged by the umpires to resume play. After a ball was played away on the off side during the over, Joseph remonstrated angrily with Hope and when the over ended he walked from the field, returning after a short break.—*PTI*

Neeraj Chopra to head to SA for off-season training

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

Star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra will travel to Potchefstroom, South Africa later this month for an off-season training stint to start early preparation for next year's competitions. The 26-year-old double Olympic medallist, who last competed in Brussels in the Diamond League Final in September, will spend 31 days in the South African city.Chopra's training stint will be funded by the Sports Ministry."(He) will start his training early and will be in Potchefstroom for 31 days," the ministry said in a statement on Friday."Neeraj's training session will be funded by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS). —*PTI*

KWA to host Senior National Wrestling C'ship in Bengaluru

BENGALURU, 8 NOV

The Karnataka Wrestling Association (KWA) is set to host the upcoming 2024 Senior National Wrestling Championship in Bengaluru from December 6 to 8. This prestigious event will showcase India's top wrestlers, including Olympic Bronze Medallist Aman Sehrawat, U-20 World Wrestling Champion Antim Panghal, Sujeet, Deepak Punia, Reetika Hooda, Sonam, Radhika, Manisha, Bipasha, Priya, Udit, Chirag, Sunil Kumar, and Narinder Cheema, among others.

For the first time, this marquee national championship will take place in the southern state of Karnataka, marking a revival of the sport in the region. Karnataka has a rich wrestling heritage, with traditional bouts and local competitions historically attracting enthusiastic crowds.

Aman Sehrawat PHOTO: PTI

The event will be held at the Koramangala Indoor Stadium under the aegis of the Wrestling Federation of India and is expected to feature over 1,000 participants and officials from 25 affiliated state member units, as well as the Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) and the Services Sports Promotion Board (SSPB). Competitions will span three disciplines: Freestyle, Greco-Roman, and Women's Wrestling. —*ANI*

Bengal is in command over Karnataka

BENGALURU, 8 NOV

Ishan Porel delivered crucial breakthroughs with figures of 4/54 from 23.1 overs, leading Bengal's three-pronged pace attack that claimed nine wickets to secure a significant first-innings lead over Karnataka.

Resuming on 155/5, Karnataka were bowled out for 221 in 82.1 overs, with Porel striking early. Abhinav Manohar, resuming overnight on 50, added only five runs before falling for 55, while Shreyas Gopal got out for 28 both to Porel. In their second essay, Bengal reached 127/3, with Sudip giving them a fine start before falling for 48. Bengal now hold an overall lead of 207, putting them firmly in control.

Bengal 301 and 127/3; 44 overs (Sudip 48). Karnataka 221; 82.1 overs (Abhinav Manohar 55; Porel 4/54, Suraj Jaiswal 3/65). —*PTI*

EUROPA LEAGUE

Man United ends winless run in Europe

LONDON, 8 NOV

Manchester United secured its first win in Europe in more than a year by beating PAOK 2-0 in the Europa League on Thursday.

Two second-half goals from Amad Diallo sealed the victory at Old Trafford and boosted United's hopes of progressing in the competition, while Tottenham's 100-per-cent start was ended by a 3-2 loss at Galatasaray.

United's last win in Europe was against Copenhagen in the Champions League on 24 Oct. last year, but that run came to an end after Diallo's double.

The winger's looping header beat PAOK goalkeeper Dominik Kotarski in the 50th minute and he followed that up with a deflected shot from outside the area that nestled into the bottom corner in the 77th.

It's two wins from three games for United under interim head coach Ruud van Nistelrooy, who has one more match – against Leicester on Sunday – before handing over to Ruben Amorim.

Manchester United's Amad Diallo celebrates after scoring his side's second goal PHOTO: X

It is not clear if there will be a role for the Dutchman after his temporary reign, but he is doing what he can to ensure that United is in the best possible position for when Amorim takes charge. Erik ten Hag was fired last week after a woeful start to the campaign leaving the team in 14th place in the Premier League and without a win in Europe's secondary competition the Europa League.

Amorim was quickly hired in his place, but it has been left to Van Nistelrooy to fill the gap while the Portuguese serve a notice period at Sporting Lisbon. —*PTI*

Stewart Cink shoots 64 to take first-round lead

PHOENIX, 8 NOV

Stewart Cink shot a 7-under 64 on Thursday to take a three-stroke lead after the first round of the Charles Schwab Cup Championship, the final PGA TOUR Champions event of the season.

The 51-year-old Cink had eight birdies and a bogey at Phoenix Country Club. The Ally Challenge winner in August in Michigan for his first senior title, Cink entered the week 12th in the season standings.

"I just kept plugging," Cink said. "I wasn't on with every part of my game, but I was my attitude was great, stayed in the present and just been working hard on not getting too emotionally invested in the rounds and just letting it unfold." K.J. Choi was second after a 67. Jerry Kelly, Paul Broadhurst, and Stephen Ames followed at 68.

"You don't want to shoot yourself in the leg in the first round," said Ames, a three-time winner this year who is third in the standings. "You want to be somewhere around the top."

Season leader Ernie Els opened with a 69 as he tries to hold onto the top spot and a $1 million bonus. —*PTI*

Rahul and Easwaran fail to leave a mark

MELBOURNE, 8 NOV

KL Rahul and Abhimanyu Easwaran failed to leave a mark yet again as India A were reduced to 73/5 at the end of day two's play in the second four-day game against Australia A at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Friday.

Previously, Australia A managed to take a 62-run lead, thanks to opener Marcus Harris making 74 in their total of 223. For India A, fast-bowler Prasidh Krishna took a four-fer while pacer Mukesh Kumar picked three wickets. In their second innings, India A was in trouble yet again as they went from 31/1 to 56/5. Wicketkeeper-batter Dhruv Jurel will have to stage a rescue act for India A, who lead by 11 runs at the end of day two. Jurel is unbeaten on 19 while Nitish Kumar Reddy is nine not out. In the morning, resuming from an unbeaten 26, Harris brought up his 47th first-class half-century and strengthened his case for opening the batting with Usman Khawaja in the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

KL Rahul and Abhimanyu Easwaran PHOTO: PTI

Harris' 74 came off 138 balls and was laced with five boundaries. He was also helped by valuable contributions from Jimmy Peirson (30), Nathan McAndrew (26 not out), and Corey Rocchiccioli (35). In India A's second innings, Rahul and Easwaran added 25 runs for loss before the latter sliced to gully off McAndrew. From there, a collapse began for India A – B Sai Sudharsan edged to second slip off Beau Webster, while Ruturaj Gaikwad was trapped lbw by a nip-backer from McAndrew. Rahul had an absolute brainfade moment when he offered no shot and tried to defend with pads off Rocchiccioli, but the ball deflected his pad and hit the stumps. His returns of 4 and 10 jeopardize India's plan to possibly make him open for the first Test at Perth, with Rohit likely to miss out due to personal reasons.

Brief Scores: India A 161 and 73/5 (Dhruv Jurel 19 not out, Beau Webster 2-14, Nathan McAndrew 2-22) lead Australia A 223 (Marcus Harris 74, Prasidh Krishna 4-50, Mukesh Kumar 3-41) by 11 runs. —*PTI*

POTENTIAL FOR TITLES

If injury-free, I will compete in 2028 LA Olympics: Sindhu

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

Insisting that she still has a lot to offer and the potential to win many more titles on the demanding BWF circuit, star Indian shuttler P V Sindhu on Friday said the 2028 Los Angeles Games remains on her radar.

By the time the biggest sporting show on earth moves to the American shores, Sindhu will be 33. However, the two-time Olympic medallist says if she remains injury-free and in peak physical condition, she will aim for a third medal.A former world champion, Sindhu, who won silver at the 2016 Rio Olympics and bronze at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, returned empty-handed from the Paris Games after her unexpected exit in the pre-quarterfinals."If I'm fit, if I'm able to do it, if I'm injury-free, then definitely yes I will compete at LA. That's what I can tell you," the 29-year-old from Hyderabad told PTI.

Sindhu had entered the Paris Games with high expectations under the mentorship of legendary Prakash Padukone but was knocked out early after losing to China's He Bing Jiao in the Round of 16."It does happen at times. I had an amazing two Olympics and in the third one, I couldn't get a medal. But I think I played well. —*PTI*

Barca goals flowing ahead of Real challenge

MADRID, 8 NOV

La Liga leaders Barcelona have been in sensational goalscoring form this season and visit Real Sociedad on Sunday in La Liga high on confidence.

The Catalans have netted 55 times in 16 matches across all competitions and have scored three times or more in each of their last seven outings. .

Barcelona suffered their only league defeat six weeks ago at Osasuna and since then have thrashed Spanish and European champions Real Madrid 4-0, as well as beating Bayern Munich 4-1 in Europe.

"The results speak their language and it's really good to see that," said Flick, with his team nine points clear of Madrid at the top of La Liga.

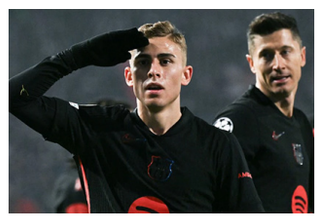


PHOTO: X

One of the key factors in Barcelona's form has been the resurgence of veteran Polish striker Robert Lewandowski under his former Bayern Munich coach Flick.

After struggling for form at times last season the 36-year-old has been nigh-on unstoppable this season. —*PTI*

Pankaj Advani reaches final of IBSF WB Championship

NEW DELHI, 8 NOV

Pankaj Advani edged closer to his 28th world title, securing a spot in the final of the IBSF World Billiards Championship (150-up format) with a 4-2 win over fellow Indian Sourav Kothari in Doha on Friday. The match, an all-Indian affair, showcased high-quality billiards as Advani, the 27-time world champion, made a strong start to clinch the opening frame in the semifinal. Kothari responded by taking the second frame. However, Advani shifted into top gear and showcased his unmatched precision and tactical brilliance to claim the next two frames and took a 3-1 lead. —*PTI*